

A  
Briefe Description  
of the whole  
VVorld.

VVherein is particularly described all the  
Monarchies, Empires and Kingdomes of  
● *the same, with their Academies.*

Newly augmented and enlarged;  
with their seuerall Titles and  
scituations thereunto  
adioyning.

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*The fift Edition.*

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# A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE VVHOLE WORLD.



THE Globe of the Earth doth either shew the Sea, or Land. The Sea generally is called by the name of OCEAN, which coasteth all the world, and taketh his name in special either of the place neere which it commeth, as *Oceanus Britannicus*,

*Mare Germanicum*, *Sinus Persicus*, *Mare Atlanticum*, of the hill *Atlas* in the West part of *Africke*: or of the finder out, as *Fretum Magelanicum*, or of some other accident, as the *Red Sea*, because the sand is red: *Mare Mediterraneum*, because it runneth betweene the lands of *Europe* and *Africke*: *Mare Icarium*, because *Icarus* was drowned there, or the like. There be some few Seas which haue no intercourse with the OCEAN, as *Mare mortuum*, neere *Palestina*, *Mare Caspium*, *sive Hircanum*, not farre from *Armenia*: and such a one is said to be in the north part of *America*.

The Straites or narrow Seas, are noted in the Latine by the name of *Fretum*, as *Fretum Britannicum*, the English narrow Seas: *Fretum Herculeum*, the Straits between *Barbarie* and *Spaine*, *Fretum Magelanicum*, &c.

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The earth is either Islands, which are those which are wholly compassed by the Sea, as *Britania, Sicilia, Corsica*, or the continent, which is called in the English, *The firme land*, in the Latine *Continens*.

The old knowne firme land, was contained onely in *Asia, Europe* and *Africa*: *Europe*, is diuided from *Africa* by the *Mediterranean sea*: from *Asia* by the riuer *Tanais*, whereby appeareth, that the North parts of *Asia*, & *Europe* in old time were but little knowne and discovered.

*Africa* is diuided from *Europe* by the *Mediterranean sea*, from *Asia* by the riuer *Nilus*, and so *Asia* by *Tanais* and *Nilus*, is seuered from *Europe* and *Africke*.

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## Of Spaine.



O say nothing of *England* and *Ireland*, the most Westerne countrey of *Europe* is *Spaine*, which is bounded on the South with the *Mediterranean*; on the West with the *Atlanticke*: on the North with *Oceanus Cantabricus* or the *Spanish seas*: on the East with *France*, from which it is seuered with certaine mountaines, called *Montes Pyrenei*, or the *Pyrenay hills*.

If we should enquire into the times that were before the comming of the *Carthagenians* and *Romaines* into *Spaine*, we shall finde nothing but that which is either fabulous, or neere to fables; here it was first called *Iberia*, ab *Ibero flumine*, afterwards *Hispania*, ab *Hispano* we may take as a tradition; but their *Gargoris*, their *Habis*, their *Geryon* exceede beliefe of any, but those that will take all reports on trust. It is certaine that the *Syrians* planted a colony there in the Isle of *Gades*,



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*Gades*, corruptly now called *Cadiz*, or *Cales* : These troubled by their neighbours, desired aide of the *Carthaginians*, a flourishing neighbours, common-wealth, descended of the *Cyrians* as well as themselves, who sent first to defend the *Gaditanes*, against their neighbours, afterwards hartned on by their successe in their first expedition, these *Carthaginians*, successively sent thither three Captaines, *Hamilcar*, *Hasdruball* and *Hanniball*, who for the most part subdued the prouince and held it, till by *Scipioes* and the *Romane* forces, they were dispossessed of it : Yet for many yeeres after the fortunes of the *Romanes* stucke as it were in the subduing of that prouince, so that from the time of the second Punicke warre, vntill the time of *Augustus*, they had businelle made them in that Countrey continually, neither could they till then bring it peaceably into the forme of a Prouince.

It continued a Prouince of the *Romane Empire* vntill the time of *Honorius* the Emperour, in whose daies the *Vandales* came into it conquering and making it theirs, then the *Goathes* (the *Vandales* either driven out, or called ouer into *Africke*) entring, erected there a kingdome, which flourished for many yeeres, till by the comming of the *Saracens* and *Moores*, their kingdome was broken, who settling themselves in *Spaine*, erected a kingdome, changed the names of many Places and Rivers, and gaue them new names, such as they retaine to this day, and continued for the space of some hundred of yeeres mighty in that Countrey, till they were first subdued by *Ferdinand* : afterwards, and that now lately vtterly expeld by *Philip* the third.

After the comming in of these *Affricans*, in this Countrey there were many kingdomes, as the kingdome of *Portugale* toward the West : the Kingdome of *Granado* toward the South : the Kingdome of

*Nauarre*

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*Nauarre* and *Arragon* toward the East: and the kingdome of *Castile* in the middle of the land: but the whole Dominion is now vnder the King of *Spaine*.

As *Damianus a Goes* doth write in that Treatise intituled *Hispania*, there were in times past twelue seuerall Kingdomes in *Spaine*, which he nameth thus; *Castella antiqua & noua*, *Leonis*, *Arragonia*, *Portugalia*, *Nauarra*, *Granata*, *Valentia*, *Toleti*, *Galitia*, *Algarbiorum*, *Murtia*, *Corduba*: which is not to be wondred at, since in England, a farre lesse Countrey, there were in the time of the Saxons seauen seuerall Kingdomes and Monarchies. In the best Mappes of *Spaine*, the Armes of these seuerall Kingdomes doe yet distinctly appeare: where for the Armes of *Leons* is giuen a Lion; which manifestly argueth, that whereas by some it is called *Regnum Legionis*, that name is false, for it is *Leonis*, sutable thereunto; for the Armes of *Castile* is giuen a Castle; which was the cause that *Iohn of Gaunt*, son to *Edward the third*, King of England, did quarter with the Armes of England the Castle and the Lion; as hauing married *Constance* daughter to *Peter King of Castile*; and at this day the first and chiefe Coate of the King of *Spaine*, is a Castle quartered with a Lion, in remembrance of the two Kingdomes of *Castile* and *Leons*.

In *Corduba* (as in times past it was called) standeth *Andoluzia*, neere vnto which is the Iland called properly *Gades*; but since, by deprivation of the word, *Cadiz*, and commonly *Cales*, which was lately surprised by the English. The Kingdome of *Granada*, which lyeth nearest to the *Mediterranean*, was by the space of 700. yeares possessed by the *Moores* and *Saracens*, who doe confesse the Religion of *Mahomet*; the reason whereof *Rodericus Toletanus* in the third booke of his storie, doth shew to be this; that whereas the *Saracens* after *Mahomet's* time, had spread themselues all along *Africke*,  
euen



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euē vnto the Westerne part of *Barbarie*; a King of *Spaine* called *Rodericus*, employed (in an Embassage to them) one *Iulian*, a Noble man of his, wh̄y by his wise demeanour, procured much reputation amongst the *Moores*: but in the time of his seruice, the King *Rodericus* deflowered the Daughter of the saith *Iulian*; which the Father tooke in such indignation, that he procured those *Saracens* to come ouer into *Spaine*, that so hee might be reuenged on his King: but when those barbarous people had once set foote in there, they could neuer be remoued, vntill the time of *Ferdinando* and *Elizabeth* King and Queene of *Spaine*, about a 100. yeeres since. The Authour before named, writeth, that before the comming of those *Moores* into *Spaine*, the King *Rodericus* would needs open a part of a Pallace, which had beene shut long before, and had by discent from hand to hand beene forbidden to be entred by any: yet the King supposing there had beene great treasure therein, broke into it, but found nothing there, sauing in a great Chest, the pictures of men, who resembled the proportion, attire, and armour of the *Moores*, and a Prophecy ioyned therewithall, that at that time, when the Pallace should be entred, such a people as was there resembled, should inuade and spoile *Spaine*; which fell out accordingly.

The Spaniards that now are, be a very mixt people, descended of the *Gothes*, which in former times possessed that land, and of those *Saracens* and of *Iewes*, which are the basest people of the world.

The kingdome of *Portugale* did containe vnder it *Regnum Algarbiorum*, but both of them are now annexed vnto *Castile* by the cunning of the King of *Spaine*, *Philip* the second, who tooke the aduantage after the death of *Sebastian*, who was slaine in *Barbary*, in the yeere 1578. Then after him reigned *Henry*, who sometimes was Cardinall, and Vncle to *Sebastian*; in whose time, although



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shew was made that it should be lawfully debated, vnto whom the Crowne of *Portugall* did belong; yet *Philip* meaning to make sure work, did not so much respect the right, as by maine force inuaded, and since (to the great griefe of the *Portugales*) hath it kept. The chiefe City of *Portugall* is *Lisbone*, called in Latin *Olyssippo*, from whence thole Nauigations were aduanced, by which the *Portugales* discovered so much of their South part of *Afrike*, and of the *East Indies*, which are possessed by them vnto this day. The City from whence the *Castilians* do set forth their ships to the *West Indies*, is *Seuill*, called in Latin *Hispalis*. Another great City in *Spaine* is *Toledo*, where the Archbishopsricke is, the richest spirituall dignity of Christendome, the Papacy onely excepted.

In the time of *Damianus a Goes*, there were reckoned to be in *Spaine* 4. Archbishopsricks of great worth. 3. other inferior, and 40. Bishopsricks: as also in *Portugall* 3. Archbishopsricks, and 8 Bishopsricks. He reckoneth vp also in *Spaine* (besides the great Officers of the Crowne) 17. Dukes, 41. Marqueses, 87 Earles or Counts, and 9. Vicons: as also in *Portugall* (besides the Officers of the Crowne) 6. Dukes. 4. Marqueses. 19. Earles, and one Vicount. In *Spaine* he saith are 7. Vniuersities. The Country is but dry, and so consequently barren, in comparison of some other places: What commodities it doth yeeld, it may be seene in the treatise of *Damianus a Goes*, which he calleth his *Hispania*.

Not onely this great and large Countrey heretofore deuided into so many kingdomes, is now vnder one absolute King, but that King also is Lord of many other Territories: as namely, of the Kingdome of *Naples* in *Italy*, and the Duchy of *Millaine*, of the Iles of *Sicily*, *Sardinia*, *Maiorque* *Minorque* *Euisa*; in the mid-land sea, of the Ilands of the *Canaries* in the *Atlantique*, besides diuers strong Townes and goodly Hauens in *Barbary*, within

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within and without the Straights. On the backe side of *Africke* he commands much on the frontiery, besides the Ilands adioyning to the maine land. In the Westerne *Indies* he hath *Mexico*, *Pern*, *Brasill*, large Territories, with the Ilands of the South, and the North sea. And *Philip* the second getting *Portugall* as a Dowrie to that force Marriage, got also all the dependances of that Crowne, in *Africke*, the *East Indies*, and the *Atlantique sea*; the Townes of *Barbarie* and the *East Indies* willingly submitting themselves vnto him, but the *Terceras* he won by force at the first and second expedition: so if we consider the huge tract of ground that is vnder this Kings Dominion, we will say that the Empery of the King of *Spaine* is in that respect the largest that now is, or euer was in the world.

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THE next Countrey is *France*: which is bounded on the West with the *Perenie Hills*: on the North, with the *English Seas*: on the East with *Germanie*: on the South-east, with the *Alpe-hills*: on the South-west, with the *Mediterranean sea*.

The Kingdome of *France* is for one entire thing, one of the most rich and absolute Monarchies of the world; hauing both on the North & South side, the Sea standing very conuenient for profit of Nauigation, and the Land it selfe being ordinarily very fruitfull: The consideration whereof caused *Francis* the first King of *France* to compare this Kingdome alone to all the Dominions and Signiorities of *Charles* the 5. Emperour: for when the Herauld of the said *Charles* bidding defiance to King



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*Francis*, did giue his Maiesty the title of *Emperour of Germany, King of Castile, Arragon, Naples, Sicilie, &c.* *Francis* commanded his Herauld to call him so often *K of France* as the other had Titles by all his Countries; imploying that *France* alone was of as much strength and worth, as all the Countries which the other had.

Concerning this argument, see the warlike and politique discourses of *Monsieur de la Noue*. He who writeth the Comentaries of Religion, and state of *France*, doth shew, that when there had beene of late in *France* in the dayes of *Francis* the second, and *Charles* the ninth, three ciuill wars, which had much ruinated the glory & beauty of that Kingdome; when a little before the great massacre in the yeare 1572. there had bin peace in that country scant full two yeares yet so great is the riches & happines of that Kingdome, that in that short time, all things were renewed and repaired againe, as if there had neuer bin any such desolation.

The Reuenue of the Crowne of *France* is exceeding great; by reason of the Taxes and Impositions which through the whole Kingdome are laid vpon the subiects: for their Sizes and Toulles doe exceede all Impolls and tributes of all the Princes of Christendome; in as much as there are few things there vled, but the King hath a commodity issuing out of them; and not onely from matters of Luxury, as in other states, but from such things as be of necessity, as Flesh, Wood, Salt, &c. It is supposed at this day, that there be in the Kingdome 30000 men, who are vnder-officers, and make a good part of their liuing by gathering of the Kings tribute: This is much increased no doubt in these latter times; but yet of old it was so in great measure, which caused that speech of *Maximilian* the Emperour: *Iohannes Auentinus* witnesseth *de bello Turcico*, who said, that the Emperour of *Germanie* was *Rex regnum*, meaning that his Princes were such great men:  
The



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The King of *Spaine* was *Rex hominum*, because his people would obey their Prince in any reasonable moderation: The King of *England* was *Rex Diabolorum*, because the subjects had there diuers times, depriued their Kings of their Crownes & dignity: But the King of *France* was *Rex asinorum*, inasmuch as his people did beare very heavy burthens of Taxes and Impositions. In this kingdome of *France* is one great misery to the subjects, that the places and offices of Iustice, are ordinarily bought and sold: the beginning whereof was this; *Lewes* the 12. who was called a Father of the Countrey, being to pay the debts of his predecessour, *Charles* the 7. (which were very great) and intending to recouer vnto *France* the dukedome of *Milaine*, and minding not to burthen his people further then was need, thought it a good course to set at sale all the offices of the Crowne; but with the places of Iustice he did not meddle; but his successors after him tooke occasion also to make great profit of them, witnes the Author *contra Machiavel*, li. I cap. 1. By the customes of that Countrey the King of *France* hath not that absolute power to muster and presse out Souldiers as in *England*, and some other places of Christendome the Princes haue: But the manner is, that when the King will set forward any military seruice, he sendeth abroad his Edicts, or causeth in Cities, & good Townes, the Drum to be struken vp, and whosoever will voluntarily follow, he is enrolled: Notwithstanding he wanteth few Souldiers, because the Noble, and Gentlemen of *France*, doe hold it their duty and highest honour, both to attend the King vnto the wars, and to beare their owne charges yearly, for many months. The person of the King of *France* hath in former time beene reputed so sacred, that *Guicciardine* saith of them, that their people haue regarded them in that respect of deuotion, as if they had beene demy Gods. And *Machiavel* in his Questions vpon *Lenie*, saith, that they

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doted for upon their kings, that they thought euery thing did become them which they did: & that nothing could be more disgracefull then to giue any intimation that such, or such a thing, was not well done by their King. But this opinion is now much decayed, the Princes of the blood are in the next ranke vnder the King himselfe.

There be many very rich and goodly Cities in *France*; but the chiefest of al is *Paris*, called *Lutetia*, *quasi Luto sita*, as some haue merrily spoken: which place is especially honored; first, by the presence of the King, most commonly keeping Court and residence there: secondly, by the great store of goodly houses, whereof part belong to Noblemen, and part are houses of Religion: thirdly, by the Vniuersity, which is incomparably the greatest, most auncient, and best filled of all *France*: fourthly, in that it is the chiefe Parliament City of that Kingdome: without the ratification of which Parliament at *Paris*, Edicts and Proclamations comming from the King, are not held authentickall: fifthly, by the great traffick of all kinde of Marchandize, which is vsed in that place.

The Parliament Cities in *France*, are places where their Termes are kept, & in seuerall prouinces are 7. vnto which the causes of interiour Courts within their distinct Prouinces may be brought by Appeale; but the Parliament of *Paris* hath that prerogatiue, that appeales from all Courts of the Kingdome doe lye there. That which we call our Parliament in *England*, is amongst them tearmed *Conuentus Ordinum*, or the States.

*France* in auncient time (as *Cesar* reporteth in the first of his Commentaries, was deuided into 3. parts; *Aquitania*, which was towards the west: *Celica*, towards the north and west: and *Belgica*, which is towards the north. *Belgium* is sometime called *Gallia inferior*, and somtimes *Germania inferior*, but we commonly call it the *Low countries*: the gouernement whereof at this day, is not at all vnder



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vnder *France*: but *Gallia Celtica*, and *Aquitania*, are vnder the French King.

The auncient inhabitants of this Countrey were the *Gauls*, who possessed not onely all that we now call *France*, being the greatest part of that the Romanes called *Gallia Transalpina*, but also a good part of *Italy*, which they called *Gallia Cisalpina*, a people whose beginnings are vnkowne; this of them is certaine, that they were a Nation of valour; for they not onely sackt *Rome*, but also carried their conquering armes into *Greece*, where they sae downe, and were called by the name of *Gallugrecians*, or *Galathians*.

Some report also, that they entred into *Spaine*, and subdued and inhabited that part which was called *Lusitania*, now *Portugallia*, but howsoever their former victories and greatnesse, they were by *Iulius Caesar* subdued, and made a prouince of the people of *Rome*, and so continued vnder the *Romane Empire* till about foure hundred yeeres after *Christ*, when in the ruine and dismembring of the *Romane Empire*, the *French* inuaded *Gaule*, and erected a Monarchie, which hath continued to this day in the succession of 64. Kings, of three severall races: that is to say, the *Merovingians*, *Carolouingiens*, and *Capetingiens*, about 1200. yeeres, and now flourisheth vnder *Lewes* the 13. the now raigning King of *France*.

Although the *French* haue done many things worthily out of their owne Countrey in the East, against the *Saracens*, although they haue for a while held *Sicily*, the kingdome of *Naples*, the Duchy of *Millaine*, yet it hath beene obserued of them, that they could neuer make good their footing beyond the *Aples*, or in other forraigne regions. howbeit in it selfe *France* is one of the strongest kingdomes in all Europe at this day.

That which we commonly call the *Low-Countries*, containeth



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taineth 17. feuerall prouinces; whereof the most part haue feuerall Titles & gouernors: as the *Dukedome* of *Brabant*, the *Earldome* of *Flaunders*, &c. Of which the inheritance at feuerall times did fall on daughters, who being married vnto the heire of some of the other prouinces, did in the end bring the whole country into one entire gouernment, which was commonly called by the name of the *Dukedome* of *Burgundy*: and yet so, that in the vnting of them together it was by composition agreed, that the feuerall prouinces should retaine their feuerall ancient lawes and liberties, which is the reason yeelded, why some of those Prouinces in our age, think themselves freed from obedience vnto the King of *Spaine*, vnto whom by inheritance they did discend; because he hath violated their liberties, to the keeping whereof, at the first composition, he was bound. When this whole countrey did belong vnto the crowne of *France*, the *Dukedome* of *Burgundy* was bestowed by *Philip de Valois*, King of *France*, vnto *John de Valois*, a yonger son of his, from whom by discent it came at last to *Charles* the bold, otherwise proud, Duke of *Burgundy*, who left one onely daughter, & she was married to *Maximilian* the Emperor, of the house of *Austria*, from whom the inheritance descended vnto *Charles* the 5. Emperour, who yeelding it ouer to his son *Philip* the 2. did charge him to entreat that people well; which he forgetting to doe, vnder pretence of rooting out the profession of Religion, did intangle himselfe, and all that Country with a very long, bloody and wearisome warre.

There is no part of *Europe*, which for the quantity of the ground, doth yeeld so much riches & commodity, as the *Low-Countries* doe, besides their infinite store of Shipping, wherein they exceede any Prince of Christendome. They were in time past accounted a very heauie dull people, and vnfit for the warres, but their continual combating with the *Spaniards*, hath made them now  
very

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very ingenuous, full of action, and managers of great causes appertaining to fights, either by Sea or Land. The 17. Prouinces are these; *Brabant, Gelderland, Artois, Valencois, Luxemburg, Flaunders, Henault, Lile, Namurce, Holland, Zealand, Tornabum, Tornacetium, Mechlin, Ulirect*, and the *East and West Freezland*.

*France* hath many petty gouernments that doe border vpon it; as the Dukedome of *Sauoie*, the State of the *Switzers*, the Dukedome of *Lorraine*, the *Burgundians*, or *Wallons*; against all which, the King is forced to keepe his frontier townes.

There is nothing more famous in this kingdome, then the *Salike* Law: wherby it is prouided, that no woman, nor the heire of her (as in her right) shall enioy the crowne of *France*, but it goeth alwaies to the heire male.

The author of the *Comentaries* against *Machiauel*, reputeth it a great blessing of God, that they haue the *Salike* Law in *France*: and that not so much (saith he) because Women by the infirmity of their sex are vnfit to gouern, for therein many men who haue enioyed kingdoms, haue been, and are very defectiue: but because by that meanes, the Crowne of *France* is neuer endangered by marriage of a Forenner, to come vnder the subiection of a Stranger. And this is the opinion of *Philip de Comines* in the 8. Book of his comentaries. This Law is very auncient among them, so that it cannot certainly be defined when it was enacted: but by vertue thereof *Edward* the third King of *England*, and his heires were cut off from inheriting the Crowne of *France*, whereunto by mariage of a daughter, he was heire in generall. And by reason of this Law *Henry* the fourth, now King of *France*, rather enioyeth that dominion, then the Son of the Duke of *Lorayne*, who was neerer of blood by disceding from the elder Daughter of King *Henry* the second.

The *Switzers* are a people called in old time *Heluetij*,  
C who



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who haue no Noblemen, or Gentlemen among them, but onely the Citizens of their Townes, the yearely Officers whereof, and their Counsell doe gouerne their State.

There are in *Switzerland* 27. Cities or Townes, which they call their *Cantons*; although some rather thinke that name properly doth signifie the rulers of those townes; and of them some doe retaine to this day the *Romish* Religion, but some others haue embraced the Gospell. The country where they liue, is not very fertile: and being far from any seas, they haue no vent for their people, but by sending them forth as hyred Souldiers, which for their pay doe fight oftentimes in *Italy* and *France*, and sometimes in *Germany*. Neare vnto one part of them standeth *Genewa*, which is chalnged by the Duke of *Sauoy*, to haue heretofore belonged to his dominion: but they pretend themselves to be a Free citty, & by the helpe of *Protestant* Princes, but especially by some of the *Heluetians*, doe so maintaine it. In this place there is a rare Law, that if any malefactor, who hath fled out of his owne country, be conuined of any grieuous crime, he suffereth there, as if he were in his owne Country: which they are forced to doe, because their Citie would be full of all sorts of Runagates, in as much as they stand on the Confines of diuers Princes and States.

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The next country vnto *France* on the East side, is *Germanie*, which is bounded on the West with *France*, and the *low Countries*: on the North with *Denmarke*, and the *Danish Seas*: on the East, with *Prussia*, *Polo-*  
*nia*, and *Hungary*: on the South-East, with  
*Iffria*



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*Istria* and *Illiricum*, on the South, with the *Alpe-hills*, and with *Italy*.

The Gouvernor generall of this Country, is called the *Emperour of Germanie*, who is chosen by three Spirituall Princes, the Archbishop of *Collin*, called *Coloniensis*, the Archbishop of *Ments*, called *Meguntinus*, and the Archbishop of *Treuers*, called *Treuerensis*; and three temporall Princes, the Duke of *Saxony*, the Marques of *Branden-burge*, and the Counte *Palatine* of *Rhene*: which if they cannot agree, as to make a *Maior* part in their Election, then the king of *Bohemia* hath also a voyce, whereof it commeth to be said, that there be seauen Princes Electors of the Empire.

The manner of the choyse of the Emperour, was established by a decree, which is commonly called *Bulla aurea*, which was made by Charles the 4. Emperour of *Germany*, and King of *Bohemia*, wherein he doth set down all the circumstances of the Election of the Emperour, and appointeth the king of *Bohemia* to be *Sacri imperij archipincerna*, which is the Cup-bearer: The 3. Bishops of *Colen*, *Ments*, & *Treuers*, to be the Archchancellors of the three feveral parts of the Empire: the Counte *Palatine* of *Rhene*, to be *Sacri imperij archidapifer*, which should haue the setting on of the first dish; the Duke of *Saxony*, to be *Sacri imperij archimarscallus*, whose office it is to beare the sword; and the Marques of *Brandenburge*, to be *Sacri imperij Archi-Camerarius*, or great Chamberlaine; all which Offices they supply on the day of the Emperours Coronation.

It appeares by all the *Romaine* Stories, that in times past the Empire went sometimes by succession, as vnto the Sonnes of *Constantine*, and *Theodosius*; sometimes by Election, and that either of the Senate, or of the Souldiers, who oftentimes also in mutiny did elect men vnworthy, yet such as fitted their purpose: But now of late, the

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Electors doe choose some Prince of Christendome, who hath otherwise a Domiaion of his owne, which may helpeto backe out the Empire, and therein of late hath appeared the great cunning of that which we call *The house of Austria*, whose greatest title within this 300. years, was to be a meane Counte of a meane place, namely, the County of *Hapsburg*. But since that time, they haue so planted and strengthened themselues, that there haue beene seauen or eight Emperors lately of that family; but the Empire is not tyed vnto them, as may appeare by the possibility, which the Duke of *Saxonie*, and *Francis* the great, King of *France* had to ascend to that dignity.

When *Charles* the fift was chosen Emperor, one of the meanes whereby the possession hath been continued to that house, hath been the electing of some one to be *Rex Romanorum*, whilst another of his Family was Emperor, which *Charles* the fift effected in his life time for his brother *Ferdinandus*, who after succeeded him; and that hath beene the attempt of *Albertus* late *Cardinall*, & now *Archduke* of *Austria*, that he might be established in the hope of the Empire, during the life of his brother *Rodolphus* the second, now Emperor and king of *Bohemia*. *Rex Romanorum*, is he, who is far already invetted in title to the Empire, so that vpon the death, resignation, or deposition of the then being Emperor, he is immediatly to succeed.

He who is now Emperour of *Germanie*, is called *Cesar*, or *Romani imperij imperator*, but very improperly: in as much as the case is farre different from that which was when the *Romane Empire* did flourish, for then the territories thereof were very great; all vnder the regiment of one man, vnlesse it pleased him to associate to himseife some other. But *Theodosius* did diuide the Empire into two Soueraignties, which were called the East and West Empires, and made *Constantinople* to be the chiefe Seate of *Arcadius*, one of his Sonnes: and *Rome*



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to be the principall Citie of *Honorius* the other: which Westerne Empire continued in his glory but a while: for the *Goths* and *Lombards*, and other barbarous people, did both ouerrun it; & as good as extinguisht it; in the which case it continued to the dayes of *Charles* the great, who reuiued it again: but although there was some shew of Dominion belonging vnto him in *Italy*, yet his principall residence was in *France*, & his successors after him remo-ued it into *Germany*: so that properly he is now to be called *Imperator Germanorum*. It was a great policy of the Bishops of *Rome*, that the Emperor was wrought to leaue *Italy*, and keepe himselfe in *Germany*: for the *Popes* did not like to haue a strong neighbour so neere, who might at his pleasure chastise or depose them, if he saw good. And the cunning of those *Popes* was such also, that they weakened the state of the *Emperour* exceeding much in *Germany*, by giuing great exemptions to the Princes thereof, in so much that *Munster* rightly complaineth.

The *Emperour* beareth the *Spread-Eagle with two heads*, noting the East & West Empire: but (saith he) one of the Heads is quite pulled off, and so be almost all the Feathers; and in the other Head, although life remaineth, yet there is little spirit or vigour.

*Surius* in his *Comentaries* of the yeare 1530. reporteth, that to the *Emperour* of *Germanie* belongeth three Crownes: the one of Siluer, which intendeth the Kingdome of *Germanie*: the second of Iron, which is for the Kingdome of *Lumbardie*, and the third of Gold, which is for the sacred *Romane Empire*.

In *Germanie* all are at a kind of commandement of the *Emperour*: but most of the Princes otherwise take on them as absolute gouernours in their dominions; so that they haue libertie of Religion: they do make Lawes, they doe raise Souldiers, they doe stampe money with their owne Pictures as absolute Princes: so doth the Duke of



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*Saxony*, the Arch-bishop of *Colen*, and the rest.

The Princes of *Germany* came to that great strength of theirs, by meanes of a base and inferiour man, who aspyring to the Empire (whereof he was vnworthy) was content to release vnto the Princes almost all kind of their seruice and duty; so that their subiection since that time, is little more then titular, yeelding only very small maintenance to the Empire, either in tribute, souldiers, or otherwise: and albeit somtimes they refuse not to come by themselves, or their agents, to the Dyets and Parliaments holden by the Emperour, yet that is as much for the safeguard of themselves from the inuasion of the *Turke*, who is not farre from them, as for any other respect; and the pay which they allow in such cases, is rather held by them to be a contribution, then any imposition to be admitted by duty: and yet there is extant a book where the particulars are mentioned, how the Princes and free Cities are bound to maintaine vpon their owne charge 3842. Horses, and 16200. Foote, for the seruice of the Emperour, when he shall see cause; but how small a trifle is that in respect of the strength of so huge a Country?

The Princes themselves are so strong many of them, that they dare encounter with any who oppugne them, insomuch that whereas *Charles* the 5. was doubtlesse the greatest Emperour that had bin from the dayes of *Charles* the great; yet the Duke of *Saxonie*, and the *Lantsgrane* of *Hassia*, with some few Cities which were confederate with them, did dare to oppose themselves against the said *Charles*; and entring the field with him, did oftentimes put him to great inconueniences: yea, it is supposed by some, that howsoever he had a hand vpon these two, yet his inability to match the rustling of some of those Princes, was not the least cause, why he resigned the Empire to his brother *Ferdinando*.

The manner of *Germany* is, that the Title of Nobility  
which

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which is in the Father, commonly is imparted to all the Sonnes: so that every Son of a Duke of Saxonie, is called Duke of Saxonie: and every child of the Counte of Mansfield, is honoured by the name of Counte or Countesse of Mansfield: but in the eldest House the chiefe liuelihood doth remaine, for keeping vpright the dignitie of the Familie.

There are also free States, and Cities, which haue the same authority, as *Argentine*, *Francford*, and other.

This is to be noted of the *Germanes*, that they may boast this aboue other more westernly Nations of Europe, that they are an vnmixed Nation: for whereas the *Lumbarde*s and *Gothes* at seuerall times haue set downe in *Italy*, and mixed themselves with the people thereof; the *Gothes*, *Vandales* and *Sarazens* in *Spaine*; the *Francks* in *Gaule*, or *France*, and the *Normans* also; the *Saxons*, *Angles*, *Danes*, and *Normans* in great *Britaine*; they haue beene free from such inundation and mixture; yea many of the people that haue inflicted and inhabited these other Nations haue come from thence, so that therein *Germanie* hath an aduantage of these other Nations that haue beene subiect hereunto.

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ON the South-side of the *Alpes* and *Germanie*, lieth *Italie*, stretching it selfe out at length toward the South & East. It hath on the South-side, the Iland of *Sicilia*: on the East, that part of the *Mediterranean*, which is called *Mare Adriaticum*, or *Mare Superũ*; which seuereth *Italy* from *Gracia*: on the West side, that part of the *Mediterraneum* which is called *Mare Tyrrhenum*, or *Mare Inferum*; and the vpper or more Northerne



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therne part of it neare *Liguria*, *Mare Ligusticum*.

This Countrey for the figure thereof, is by some, likened vnto a long Lease of a Tree. It hath in the middle of it, which goeth all in length, a mighty Mountaine, named *Mons Apenninus*, which is likened vnto the *Spina*, or Ridge-bone of the backe. Out of this hill springeth diuers Rivers, which run on both sides of it, into the *Adriaticke*, and *Tyrrhene*, or *Tuscan* seas.

As in other Countries, so in *Italy* in times past, there were diuers seuerall people, & seuerall Prouinces, like our Shires in *England*, & so there be at this day: but the maine diuision of *Italy* is properly into foure parts, as in our age we doe account it. The first *Lumbardy*, which lieth to the North. The second *Tuscan*, which boundeth toward the *Mediterranean sea*, which way *Corfica* the Island lieth. The third is the *Land of the Church*, which is the Territory of the Bishop of *Rome*, and containeth in it that which is called *Romania*. The fourth is *Naples*, and in this diuision now is all *Italy* comprehended.

The North part of this *Italy* is that, which in ancient time was called *Gallia Togata*, or *Gallia Cisalpina*, inhabited then by the *Frenchmen*. It is now called *Longobardia*, or *Lombardie*: wherein stand many rich Gouvernements, as the Dukedome of *Millaine*, of *Mantua*, of *Florence*, and other. It is for the pleasantnesse thereof, in respect of the soyle, ayre, waters, and great varietie of wines, and fruits, likened now by some, to *Paradise*, or the Garden of God.

In this *Italy*, which was heretofore one intire gouernment, in the flourishing estate of the *Romanes*, are now many absolute States & Princedomes, by the great policy of the Bishop of *Rome*, who thought it the best way to make himselfe great, to weaken the Empire. So he hath not onely driuen the Emperour out of all *Italy* into *Germany*, but hath diminished his maiesty in both, by making so many petty gouernments, which hold themselves  
soueraigne

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soueraigne rulers, without relation to any other.

As there are many States in *Italy*, so one of the chiefest are the *Venetians*, called *Resp. Venetorum*, or the State of *Venice*; because they are not gouerned by any one, but by their Senate & Gentlemen; although they haue a Duke, with whose stampe their money is coyned, and in whose name all their executions of Iustice are done. But this Duke is euery way limited by the State.

This City of *Venice*, which ioyneth to a corner of *Lum-bardy*, standeth in *Æstuarium*, or shallow of earth, in the North part of the *Adriaticke* Sea, so safely, that it is held inuincible. There is in it but one Streete of firme Land, into the other the sea doth flow at euery tide. They haue bin a great and rich state, not only possessing much in *Italy*, as *Padua* their Vniuersity, & other things which still they doe; but a great part of *Illyricum*, and many rich Ilands in the *Mediterraneum*, as *Candie*, called commonly *Creta*, *Cyprus*, *Zazinthus*, and other.

But *Cyprus* was taken from them a little before that fight at Sea, wherein *Don Iohn of Austria*, together with the *Venetians*, had so renowned a victorie against the *Turke* at the fight neare *Le Panto*.

The impouerishing of their state, hath partly bin by the incroching of the *Turk*, but especially by the decaying of that traffique which they had to *Alexandria* in *Egypt* for their Spices, and other riches of *Persia*, *Arabia*, & the *East Indies*. Since the course of the *Portugals* to those Easterne Countries hath bin by Sea, by the backside of *Africa*.

These *Venetians*, which in times past were great warriors, doe now altogether decline enmity, or hostility with all other Princes adioyning, & therefore by all meanes do take vp quarrels, and cease controuersies by wisdom and patience, temporizing with the *Turke*, the K. of *Spaine*, and the Emperour, who are most like to offend them.

The manner of their gouernment, and the excellent

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course



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course which they haue, in choosing their Duke, is written by *Contarenius*, & some other of their Countrymen. When they doe make any wars, they seldome send forth any Generall of their owne, but entertaine some Prince of *Italy*, who is renowned for the wars.

In *Lumbardy* standeth also the Dukedome of *Millaine*, a most rich & pleasant thing, which sometime had been gouerned by a Duke of their own, but of late hath been possessed by the *Spaniard*, & sometime by the *French*, & is now in the gouernment and possession of the King of *Spaine*.

In *Tuscaine*, the chiefe Citie and commander of all the rest is *Florence*, where is supposed to be the best language of *Italie*, called the Vulgar *Italian*: and the most circum-spect policy of all the gouernments of Christendome, which hath much benee encreased since the time of *Machiavel*, who was Secretary or Recorder to that State. This was in times past a Free Citie, but of late by the policy of the family of the *Medices*, it is brought vnder the subiection of a Duke, which raigneth as an absolute Prince; and by little and little, hath so encroached on his owne Citizens and Neighbours round about him, that he hath gotten to be called (& that not vnworthily) *Magnus Dux Hetruria*, or, *The great Duke of Tuscaine*. A great part of the rising of the family of the *Medices*, which are now Dukes of *Florence*, may be ascribed to the cunning carriage of themselves; but it hath benee much aduanced forward by their felicity, in hauing two *Popes* together of that house, which were *Leo* the tenth, and *Clement* the seauenth, who by all meanes labored to stablish the gouernment of their Country vpon their kindred; and it made not the least accessle thereunto, that affinity was contracted by them with the Kings of *France*, when *Katherine de Medices*, Neece to *Pope Clement* the 7. was married to the yonger Sonne of *France* the first, whole elder brother dying, that yonger came to be King of *France*, by the name of *Henrie* the second:

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second : for as in the time of her Husband shee laid the foundation of her aspiring, so after the death of the said husband, when she bare the name of the *Queene Mother*. This *Queene Mother* swaied all at her pleasure in *France*, during the successiue raigne of her three Sons, *Francis* the second, *Charles* the ninth, and *Henrie* the third : in all which time, no doubt, she promoted *Florence* and the *Florentines*, to her vttermost.

A good part of *Italy* is vnder the Bishop of *Rome*, which is commonly called *The land of the Church*; where the *Pope* is a Prince absolute, not onely spirituall as elsewhere he claimeth, but also temporall; making Lawes, requiring Tribute, rayling Souldiers, and executing Iustice as a Monarch.

The Bishops of *Rome* doe pretend that *Constantine* the Great, did bestow vpon them the Citie of *Rome*, together with diuers other Cities and Townes neare adioyning, and the Demeanes of them all, to be as the Patrimony of *S. Peter*, as many times they doe tearme it. But *Laurentius Valla*, in his 1st Treatise of this argument, hath displayed the falsehood of that pretence; and in trueth, the greatnes of the *Popes* hath risen first by *Phocas*, who killing his Master the Emperour of *Rome*, & being fauoured by the Bishop of that Sea, and so aspyring himselfe to the Empire, did in recompence thereof, suffer the Bishop of *Rome* to be proclaimed *Uniuersall Bishop*; and of likelihood gaue vnto him somewhat to maintaine his estate : And afterward King *Pipin* of *France* and *Charles* the great his Sonne, getting (by meanes of the said Bishop) the Kingdome of *France*, and the one of them to the Empire, did bestow good possessions vpon the Papacy; and since that time the *Popes* haue had so much wit, as by destruction of the Princes of *Italy*, by encroching on the fauor of others, the great Monarchs of *Europe*, and by their wars and other deuises, to keepe and increase that land of the



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Church, which in our time is well enlarged, by the pollicy of *Clement* the eight, late *Pope*; who hath procured that the Dukedome of *Ferrara*, is or shall be shortly added vnto his Dominion.

The chiefe residence of the Bishop of *Rome*, is *Rome* it selfe, which was first founded by *Romulus*, and afterwards so increased by others who succeeded him, that it was built vpon seauen hils, and hath had only raigning in it seauen Kings; and hath bin ruled by seauen severall sorts of chiefe Government: that is, *Kings*, *Consuls*, *Decemviri*, *Tribunes of the people*, *Dictators*, *Emperors*, and *Popes*.

The first encroched on the neighbours about them in *Italy*, afterwards on all *Italy*, *Sicily*, and some of the Ilands; till at length it proued to be the Lady & chiefe Mistresse of the World: whose incredible wealth and greatnes, in men, treasure, shipping, & armor, was so huge, that it did euen linke vnder the wealth of it selfe. Whereupon after diuers Ciuill wars, as betweene *Marius* and *Sylla*, *Pompey* and *Cesar*, with others, it was at length reuoked vnto one absolute and imperiall gouernment. The Maiessty wherof notwithstanding was afterward somewhat impaired by the building of *Constantinople*, which was erected, or rather enlarged by *Constantine* the great, and called *noua Roma*. But when the diuision was made of the East and West Empire it receiued a greater blow, yet the maine overthrow of it was, when the *Goths* and *Vandals* entred *Italy*, sacked it, and possessed it at their owne pleasure; so that it was (for a time) almost quite forsaken, & had no inhabitants, til the Bishops of *Rome* did make means to gather together some to people it againe: and since those times, a good part of the old building vpon the Hils, hath bin quite decayed and ruinated, & that *Rome* which now may be called (in comparison of the old) new *Rome*, is built on a lower ground, where the place was, which in times past was termed *Campus Martius*, very neere vnto *Tyber* the Riuer, which

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which too well appeareth by the sodaine inundations of that *Tyber*; destroying and spoiling men, cattell, and houses, as very lately to their great losse was experimented.

The Bishops of *Rome*, as somtimes for their pleasure or profit; they doe withdraw themselves vnto *Bologna*, or some other Townes of *Italy*: So the time was when they removed their Court vnto *Anignon*, a City in *France*, standing neare the *Mediterranean sea*, and not far from *Marsiles* in *Prouince*; where continuing for the space of 70. yeares, they so afflicted the City of *Rome*, for lacke of resort (which is very great when the *Popes* is there) that the *Italians* to this day doe remember that time, by the name of the *Captivity of Babilon*, which continued (as appeareth by the Scripture) for 70. yeares. Who so looketh on the description laid down by the holy Ghost in the *Reuelation* shall see, that the *Whore of Babilon* there mentioned, can be vnderstood of no place, but the *Citie of Rome*.

In the South part of *Italy* lyeth the Kingdome of *Naples*, which is a Country very rich, and full of all kinde of pleasure, abundant in Nobility; whereof commeth to be said that prouerbe, *Naples* for Nobility, *Rome* for Religion, *Millaine* for Beauty, *Florence* for Policy, and *Venice* for Riches.

This was heretofore ruled by a King of their owne, till the time of *Ioane* Queene of *Naples*, who by deed of gift, did first grant that Kingdome to the Kings of *Arragon* in *Spaine*; and afterward by will, with a reuocation of the former Grant, did bequeath it to the house of *Anioy* in *France*. Since which time, the Kingdome of *Naples* hath somtimes bin in the hands of the *Spaniard*, somtimes possessed by the *French*, and is now vnder the King of *Spaine*, vnto this is annexed also the Dukedome of *Calabria*.

This Kingdome of *Naples* lyeth so neare to some part of *Gracia*, which is now in possession of the *Turke*, that it may iustly be feared, least at some time or other, the said



## Of Denmarke, Sweden and Norway.

*Turke* should make inuasion thereunto, as indeed he hath offered diuers times, and sometimes hath landed men, to the great terror of all *Italy*: but for the preventing of that milchiefe, the King of *Spaine* is inforced to keepe a good fleet of Gallies continually at *Otranto*, where is the neereſt paſſage from *Italy* into *Greece*. This part of *Italy* was it which in times paſt was named *Magno Grecia*, but in latter ages it hath bin vnproperly called, one of the *Sicilies*, which was reſproued long ſince by *Aeneas Siluius* in his 12. *Epistle*, and yet till of late time the Kings of *Spaine* haue bin rearmed Kings of both the *Sicilies*.

There be moreouer in *Italy*, many other Princedomes and States, as the Dukedome of *Ferrara*, the Dukedome of *Mantua*, the Dukedome of *Vrbine*, the Dukedome of *Parma* and *Placentia*: The State of *Luca*, the State of *Genua*, commonly called the *Genowates*, which are gouerned by their Senate, but haue a Duke as they haue at *Venice*. There be alſo ſome other, by which meanes, the glory and ſtrength of *Italy* is decayed.

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## Of Denmark, Sweden and Norway.

**A**s *Italy* lieth on the South ſide of *Germanie*, ſo *Denmarke* lieth on the North, into the middle of which land, the ſea breaketh in by a place called the *Sound*. The impoſt of which paſſage bringeth great riches, as an ordinary tribute vnto the King of *Denmarke*. This is a Kingdome, and ruled by an absolute gouernour.

On the North and Eaſt ſide of *Denmarke*, lieth *Suezia*, commonly called *Sweden*, or *Swethen*; which is alſo a kingdome of it ſelfe: Where the King profeſſeth himſelfe to be *Rex Suecorum, Gothorum, & Vandalorum*: Whereby we may know that the *Gothes* and *Vandales*, which in times paſt

## Of Denmarke, Sweden and Norway.

past did waste *Italie*, and other nations of Christendome, did come out of this Countrey.

This whole countrey which containeth in it *Noruegia*, *Suezia*, and some part of *Denmarke*, is, *Peninsula*, being very much compassed about with the Sea: and this is it, which in *Olaus Magnus*, & *Ioannes Magnus*, is tearmed *Archiepiscopus upsalensis*, as also in some of the more ancient writers, is called *Scandinavia*: on the North and West side of *Swethen*, lieth *Noruegia*, or *Norwaie*, which is at this day vnder the gouernment of the K. of *Denmarke*, although heretofore it hath bin a free kingdom of it selfe.

Beyond *Norway* toward *Russia*, on the Northerne sea lieth *Serichinia*, beyond that *Biarmia*, then *Happia*, or *Hapland*, a poore and cold country, neere *Sinus Boddicus*: whereof there is little to be spoken, but that it is said to be subiect to the great *Knez* or *Duke* of *Musconie*. But of these afterward.

Within the *Sound*, on the East part of the sea, lieth *Dantzike*, about which are the townes of the Haußmen, confederats and alies vnto the King of *Denmarke*,

These are very rich townes, by reason of marchandize which downe the riuers they receiue out of *Polonia*, and transport into other parts of Christendome, through the *Sound* of the King of *Denmarke*. They liue as free people, keeping amity and entercourse with the Kings of *Sweden* and *Denmarke*, and with the Emperour of *Germanie*: but within these late yeares, *Steuens Bacour*, the king of *Polone* doth challenge them to be members of his Crown & dignity, and by war forced them to capitulate with him.

There is no great thing to be noted in these Countries; but that from *Denmarke* commeth much Corne, to the supply of other parts of Christendome; and that from all these countries, is brought great furniture for war, or for shipping; as masts, cables, Steele, saddles, armour, gunpowder, and the like. And that in the seas adioyning to these parts,



## Of Russia, or Muscouia.

parts, there are fishes of much more monstrous shape then elsewhere are to be found: the people of those countries are by their profession *Lutherans* for Religion.

## Of Russia, or Muscouia:



On the East side of *Sweden* beginneth the dominion of the Emperour of *Russia*, although *Russia*, or *Muscouia* it selfe, doe lie somewhat more into the *East*, which is a great and mighty Monarchy, extending it selfe euen from *Hapland* and *Finmarke*, many thousand miles in length, vnto the *Caspian* sea: so that it containeth in it a great part of *Europe*, and much of *Asia* also.

The gouernor there, calleth himselfe *Emperour of Russia*, *Great Duke of Muscouia*, with many other titles of principdomes & Cities, whose Dominion was very much enlarged by the Emperor not long since dead; whom in *Russia* they call *Iuan Vasiluich*, in the Latine *Ioannes Basilides*; who raigning long, and being fortunate in war, did very much enlarge this mighty Dominion.

This man as in his yonger dayes he was very fortunate, and added very much vnto the glory of his ancestors, winning something from the *Tartars*, and something from the Christians in *Liuania*, *Lituania*, and other confines of his country: so in his latter age growing more vnweldy, & lesse beloued of his subiects, he proued as vnfortunate, wherby it came to passe, that *Stephen Bacour* K. of *Polone*, had a very great hand of him, winning from him large Prouinces, which hee before had conquered. *Gregorie* the thirteenth, Bishop of *Rome*, thinking by his intreatie for peace betweene those two Princes; to haue wooon the whole *Russian* Monarchie to the subiection and  
acknow-

## Of Russia, or Muscouia.

acknowledgment of the Papacy, sent *Robertus Possennus*, a Iesuite, (but yet a great States-man) as his agent to take vp controuerfies, betweene the *Muscovite* and the king of *Polone*; who preuailed so farre, as that he drew them to tolerable conditions for both parties; but when he began to exhort him to the accepting of the Romish Faith, the Emperor being therefore enformed by the English Ambassadors (who he very much fauoured, for his Lady, and Mistresse *Queene Elizabeths* sake) that the Bishop of *Rome* was a proud Prelate, and would exercise his pretended authority so farre, as to make Kings and Princes hold his stirrop, yea to kisse his very feet, he vtterly and with much scorne reiected all obedience to him. Whereunto, when *Possennus* did reply, that the Princes of *Europe* indeede in acknowledgement of their subiection to him as the Vicar of *Christ*, & successor of *Saint Peter*, did offer him that seruice, as to kisse his feete, but that the Pope remembering himselfe to be a mortall man, did not take that honour as due vnto himselfe, but did vse to haue on his Pantophle the *Crucifixe*, or picture of *Christ*; hanging vpon the Crosse; and that in truth he would haue the reuerence done thereunto: the Emperour did grow into an exceeding rage, reputing his pride to be so much the greater, when he would put the *Crucifixe* vpon his shooe; in as much as the *Russians* doe hold, that so holy a thing as that, is highly prophaned, if any resemblance of it be worne, but aboute the girdle.

*Possennus* in a treatise written of his Embassage into that Country, where he discourseth this whole matter, confesseth that he was much afraide, least the Emperour would haue stricken him, and beaten out his braine with a shrewd Staffe which then he had in his hands, and did ordinarily carry with him; and he had the more reason so to feare, because that Prince was such a tyrant, that he had not onely slaine, and with cruell torture put to death



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very many of his subiects, and Nobility before, shewing himselfe more brutishly cruell to them, then euer *Nero* or *Caligula* were among the *Romanes*: but hee had with his owne hands, and with the same staffe, vpon a small occasion of anger, killed his eldest Sonne, who should haue succeeded him in his whole Empire.

The people of this country, are rude and vnlearned, so that there is very little or no knowledge amongst them of any liberall or ingenuous Art; yea their very Priests, and Monkes (whereof they haue many) are almost vnlettered, so that they can hardly doe any thing more then reade their ordinary seruice: And the rest of the people are, by reason of their ignorant education, dull and vn capable of any high vnderstanding; but very superstitious, hauing many ceremonies, and idolatrous Solemnities: as the consecrating of their Rivers, by their Patriarch at one time of the yeare, when they thinke themselves much sanctified by the receiuing of those hallowed waters; yea, and they bathe their horses and Cartell in them; and also the burying of most of their people with a paire of Shooes on their feete, as supposing that they haue a long iourney to goe; and a Letter in their hand to *S. Nicholas*, whom they reuerence as a speciall *Saint*, and thinke that he may giue them entertainment, for their readier admission into heauen.

The *Musconites* generall haue receiued the Christian Faith; but yet so, that rather they doe hold of the *Greeke*, and the *Easterne*, then of the *Westerne Romane Church*.

The Doctrines wherein the *Greeke Church* differs from the *Latine*, are these: First, they hold that the Holy Ghost proceeds from the Father alone, and not from the Sonne. Secondly, that the Bishop of *Rome* is not the vniuersal Bishop. Thirdly, that there is no Purgation. Fourthly, their Priests doe marrie; and fifthly they doe differ in diuers of their ceremonies, as in hauing foure Lents in the yeare,

## Of Russia, or Muscouia.

yeare, whereof they doe call our Lent, their great Lent.

At the time of the Counsell of *Florence*, there was some shew made by the Agents of the *Greeke* Church, that they would haue ioyned in opinion with the *Latines*: but when they returned home, their Country-men would in no sort assent thereunto.

In the Northerne parts of the dominion of the Emperour of *Russia*, which haue lately been ioyned vnto his territories, as especially *Lapland*, *Biaromia*, and there abouts, there are people so rude and heathenish, that (as *Olaus Magnus* writeth of them) looke whatsoever liuing thing they doe see in the morning at their going out of their doores, yea, if it be a Bird, or a Worme, or some such other creeping thing, they doe yeeld a diuine Worship, & Reuerence thereunto for all that day, as if it were some inferiour God. *Damianus a Goes* hath written a pretty Treatise describing the manners of those *Lappians*. The greatest part of the Country of *Russia* is in the winter so exceeding cold, that both the Rivers are frozen ouer, the Land couered with snow, and such is the sharpnes of the Ayre, that if any goe abroad bare faced, it causeth their flesh in a short time to rot, which befalleth to the fingers and toes of diuers of them: therefore for a great part of Winter, they liue in Stowes and Hot-houses: and if they be occasioned to goe abroad they vse many Furrer; whereof there is great plenty in that Country, as also Wood to make fire: but yet in the Summer time, the face of the soyle, and the ayre is very strangely altered, insomuch that the Country seemeth hot, the Birds sing very merrily, and the Trees, Grasse, and Corne, in a short space doe appeare so cheerefully, greene, and pleasant; that it is scant to be beleueed, but of them which haue seene it.

Their building is most of wood, euén in their chiefe City of *Musco*; insomuch, that the *Tartars* (who lie in the Northeast of them, breaking oft into their countries, euén



## Of Russia or Muscouia.

vnto the very *Musco*, doe set fire on their Cities, which by reason of their woddren buildings, are quickly destroyed.

The manner of gouernment which of late yeares hath bin vsed in *Russia* is very barbarous, and little lesse then tyrannous: for the Emperor that last was, did suffer his people to be kept in great seruility, and permitted the Rulers and chiefe Officers at their pleasures, to pill and ransacke the common sort; but to no other end, but that himself might take occasion (when he thought good) to call them to question for their misdemeanor, and so fill his owne coffers with fleecing of them: which was the same course the old *Romane* Emperors did vse, calling the deputies of their Prouinces by the name of Sponges, whose property is to suck vp water, but when it is full, then it selfe is crushed, and yeeldeth forth liquour for the behalfe of another.

The passage by Sea into this Country, which was wont to be through the *Sound*, & so afterward by land, was first discovered by the *English*; who with great danger of the frozen seas, did first aduenture to saile so far North, as to compasse *Lapland*, *Finmarke*, *Sericfinia* and *Biarmia*: and so passing to the East by *Noua Zembla*, halfe the way almost to *Cathajo*, haue entred the Riuer called *Ob*; by which they disperse themselves for marchandize both by water and land, into the most parts of the dominion of the Emperour of *Russia*.

The first attempt which was made by the *English*, for the entrance of *Muscouia* by the North Seas, was in the daies of King *Edward* the 6. at which time, the Merchants of *London* procuring leaue of the King, did send forth Sir *Hugh Willobie*, with shipping and men, who went so farre toward the North, that he coasted the corner of *Sericfinia*, and *Biarmia*, & so turned toward the East: but the wether proued so extreame, the snowing so great, & the freezing of the water so vehement, that his Ship was set fast in the Ice, and there he and his people were frozen to death, and  
the

## Of Russia or Muscouia.

the next yeare some other comming from *England*, found both the Ship and their bodies in it, & a perfect remembrance in writing, of all things which they had done and discovered; where amongst the rest, mention was made of a Land which they had touched, which to this day is known by the name of *Sir Hugh Willobies Land*. The Merchants of *London* did not desist to pursue this discovery, but haue so far preuailed, as that they haue reached one halfe of the way, toward the East part of *Chyna*, and *Cathaio*; but the whole passage is not yet opened.

This Empire is at this day, one of the greatest dominions in the world, both for compasse of ground, and for multitude of men; sauing that it lyeth farre North, and so yeeldeth not pleasure or good traffique, with many other of the best situated Nations.

Among other things which doe argue the magnificence of the Emperour of *Russia*, this one is recorded by many who haue trauelled into those parts; that when the great Duke is disposed to sit in his magnificence, besides great store of Iewels, and abundance of Masse Plate both of Gold and Silver, which is openly shewed in his Hall, there doe sit as his Princes, and great Nobles, cloathed in very rich and sumptuous attyre, diuers Men, auncient for their yeares, very seemely of countenance, and graue, with white long beards, which is a goodly shew, besides the rich state of the thing. But *Olaus Magnus*, a man wel experienced in those Northerne parts, doth say (how truly I cannot tell) that the manner of their sitting, is a notable fraud and cunning of the *Russian*; in as much as they are not men of any worth, but ordinary Citizens of the grauest, and seemliest countenance, which against such a solemnity, are picked out of *Musco*, and other places adioyning, and haue robes put on them, which are not their owne, but are taken out of the Emperours Wardrobe.



Of Spruce and Poland:



**I**N Europe, on the East and North corner of Germany, lyeth a country called *Prussia*, in Latine most times *Borussia*, in English *Pruthen*, or *Spruce*, of whom little is famous, saving that they were governed by one, in a kind of order of Religion, whom they call the Ground-Master: and that they are a meanes to keepe the *Muscovite*, and the *Turke* from some other parts of Christendome.

This Countrey is now growne to be a Dukedome, and the Duke thereof doth admit traffique with our English: who going beyond the Hantstownes, doe touch vpon his Country; & amongst other things doe bring from thence a kinde of Leather, which was wont to be vsed in Ierkins, and called by the name of Spruce-Leather-Ierkins.

On the East side of Germany, betweene *Russia*, and Germany, lyeth *Polonia*, or *Poland*, which is a kingdome differing from other in Europe; because the King there, is chosen by Election out of some of the Princes neere adioyning, as lately *Henry* the third, King of *France*. These Elections oftentimes doe make great factions there; so that in taking parts, they grow often there into ciuill warre.

The King of *Polonia* is almost continually in warre, either with the *Muscovite*, who lieth in the East and North-east of him; or with the *Turke*, who lieth on the South and South-east; and sometimes also with the Princes of *Germanie*; whereupon the *Poles* doe commonly desire to choose warriors to their King.

In this Country are none but Christians: but so, that liberty of all Religion is permitted, insomuch, that there be Papists; Colledges of *Iesuites*, both of *Lutherans* and *Caluinists*.

## Of Hungaria and Austria.


*Calvinists* in opinions, *Anabaptists*, *Arrians*, & diuers others.

But of late yeares, there hath been made earnest motions in their Parliaments, that their Colledges of *Iesuites* should be dissolued, and they banished out of that Kingdome, as of late they were from *France*. The reason of it is, because that vnder colour of Religion, they doe secretly deale in State causes, and many times sow seditions, and some of them haue giuen counsell to murther Princes: and wheresoever they be, they are the onely intelligencers for the *Pope*: besides that, many of the *Papists* (but especially all their Friers, and orders of Religion) doe hate and enuie them: first, for that they take vpon them with such pride to be called *Iesuites*, as if none had to doe with *Iesus* but they; and are more inward with Princes, then the rest are: Secondly, because many of them are more learned then common Monkes and Friers: And thirdly, because they professe more strictly and seuerely, then others doe, the *Capuchins* onely excepted.

This is that Country, which in times past was called *Sarmatia*, the chiefe Citie whereof is named *Cracovia*.

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## Of Hungaria and Austria.

N the South-east side of *Germanie* lyeth *Hungary*, called in the Latine *Pannonia*, which hath beene heretofore diuided into *Pannonia superior*, and *Pannonia inferior*: it is an absolute Kingdome, and hath been heretofore rich and populous. The Christians that doe liue there, haue among them diuers sorts of Religions, as in *Poland*.

This Kingdome hath been a great obstacle against the *Turkes* comming into Christendomes but especially in the times of *Iohannes Huniades*, who did mightily, with many  
great



## Of Hungaria and Austria.

great victories repulse the *Turke*. Here standeth *Buda*, which was heretofore a great fortresse of Christendome, but the glory of this kingdome is almost vtterly decayed, by reason that the *Turke*, who partly by policy and partly by force, doth now possesse the greatest part of it. So that the people are fled from thence, and the Christians which remaine there, are in miserable multitude: Notwithstanding some part of *Pannonia inferior*, doth yet belong to Christendome.

The *Turkes* for the space of these 40. or 50. yeares last past, haue kept continuall Garrisons, & many times great Armies in that part of *Hungary*, which yet remaineth Christned; yea and somtimes the great *Turkes* themselves haue come thither in person with huge hostes, accounting it a matter of their Religion, not onely to destroy as many Christians as they can, but also to win their Land; by the reuenues wherof, they may maintain some Religious house, which they thinke themselves in custome bound to erect; but so, that the maintaining thereof is by the sword, to be woen out of the hands of some of those whom they hold enemies to them.

*Hungary* is become the onely Cockpit of the world, where the *Turkes* doe strue to gaine, & the Christians at the charge of the Emperour of *Germanie* (who intituleth himselfe *King of Hungarie*) doe labour to repulse them: and few Summers doe passe, but that something is either woone or lost, by either partie.

That corner of *Germany* which lieth neereſt to *Hungarie* or *Pannonia inferior*, is called *Austria* or *Pannonia superior*, which is an Archdukedome. From which house (being of late much sprung) come many of the Princes of *Germanie*, and of other parts of *Europe*; so that the Crowne imperiall of *Germanie*, hath lately oft befallen to some one of this house.

In this Country standeth *Vienna* that noble City, which

## Of Greec, &c.

is now the principall Bulwarke of all Christendome against the *Turke*; from whence *Soliman* was repelled by *Ferdinandus* King of *Hungarie*, in the time of the Emperour *Charles* the fift. It was in this Country, that *Richard* the first, King of England, in his returne from the *Holy Land*, was taken prisoner by the Archduke of *Austria*, and so put to a grievous ranfome.

There were lately diuers Brothers of the Emperour *Rodolphus* the second, which were all called by the name of *Archdukes of Austria*, according to the manner of the *Germanes*; who giue the Titles of the Fathers nobility to all the Children. The names of them were *Mathias*, *Ernescht*; and the youngest *Albertus*, who for a good space held by dispensation from the *Pope*, the Archbishoprick of *Toledo* in *Spaine*, although he were no Priest, and had then also the Title of *Cardinall of Austria*, and was imployed for Vizeroy of *Portugall*, by *Philip* the second King of *Spaine*: but after the death of the Duke of *Parma*, he was sent as Lieutenant generall, & Gouvernor of the *Low-Countries* for the King of *Spaine*; where since he hath attained to the mariage of the *Isanta Isabella Eugenia Clara*, eldest daughter to King *Philip* the second, and last King of *Spaine*, and by her hath he the stile of *Duke of Burgundy*, although peaceably he cannot enioy a great part of that Country.

Through both *Austria* and *Hungary* doth runne the *Rheine*, whereon groweth *Vinum Rhenanum*, commonly called *Rhenish-wine*.

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## Of Greece, Thracia, and the Countries neere adioyning.

ON the South-side of *Hungarie* and South-east, lyeth a Country of *Europe*, called in old time *Dacia*,  
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## Of Greece, &c.

which is large and wide, comprehending in it *Transylvania*, *Walachia*, *Moldania*, and *Servia*. Of which little is famous, saue that the men are warlike, and can hardly be brought to obedience. They haue lately beene vnder the King of *Hungarie*.

These Countries of *Transylvania*, *Walachia*, and *Moldania*, haue certaine Monarchs of their owne, whom they call by the name of *Vognode*, which doe rule their countries with indifferent mediocrity, while they haue the sway in their owne hands: but confining vpon the *Turke*, they are many times oppressed & ouercome by him, so that often they are his tributaries: yet by the wildenesse of the Country, and vncertaine disposition of the Rulers and their people, he neuer hath any hand long ouer them. but sometimes they maintaine warre against him, and haue slaine downe some of his *Bassaes*, comming with a great Army against them, by which occasion it falleth out, that he is glad now and then to enter confederacy with them: so doubtfull a kinde of regiment is that, which now a dayes is in those Countries.

The Riuer *Danubius* doth diuide this *Dacia* from *Mysia*, commonly called *Bulgaria*, and *Russia*, which lieth on the South from *Danubius*, and is seuered from *Gracia* by the mountaine *Hemus*.

This mountaine is that whereof they report in times past, though but falsly, that who so stood on the top thereof, might see the Sea foure seuerall waies, *to wit*, East, West, North, and South: vnder pretence of trying which conclusion (not *Philip Alexanders* Father, but a latter *Philip*, King of *Macedonia*) did goe vp to that hill, when in truth his meaning was secretly to meet with others there, with whom he might ioyne himselfe against the *Romanes*, which was shortly the ouerthrow of that Kingdome. It should seeme that about this mountaine it is very cold, by reason of that icst which *Atbenius* reporteth *Stratonicus* to haue  
uttered

## Of Greece, &c.

vittered concerning that hill, when he said, that for eight months in the yeare it was very cold, and for other foure it was Winter.

From *Hemus* toward the South, lyeth *Græcia*, bounded on the West, by the *Adriatique* sea; on the East by the *Thra-sian* sea, and *Mare ægeum*; on the South, by the maine *Me-diterranean* Sea. This contained in old time foure speciall parts, *Peloponnesus*, *Achaia*, *Macedonia*, and *Epyrus*.

Adioyning whereunto was *Illyricum Peloponnesus*, which is now called *Moreah*, in the South part of *Græcia*, being *Peninsula*, or almost an Island, for that it is ioyned by a little strait called *Isthmos*, vnto the rest of *Græcia*. Herein stood *Sparta*, and the ancient state of *Lacedemon*. The laws whereof were made by *Licurgus*, by the due obseruation of which, *Tullis* could say in his time, that the title of *Sparta* in *Lacedemon*, had continued in the same meanes and behauour for the space of 700. yeares.

This *Sparta* was it which so often made warre against the *Athenians*, and this and *Athens* were called the two edges of *Græcia*.

Nearer the *Isthmos* or *Straights*, stood the famous Citie of *Corinth*, which was in old time called the *Key of Greece*; and whither *Saint Paul* wrote two of his Epistles.

*Aeneas Syluius* in his Cosmographicall Treatise *De Europa*, Cap. 22. saith, that the *Straights* which diuide *Moreah* from the rest of *Græcia*, are in breadth but five miles; and that diuers Kings and Princes did goe about to dig away the earth, that they might make it to be an Island: He nameth King *Demetrius*, *Iulius Cesar*, *Caius Caligula*, and *Domitius Nero*; of all whom he doth note, that they not onely failed of their purpose, but that they came to violent and vnnaturall deaths.

From the *Isthmos*, which is the end of *Peloponnesus*, or *Moreah*, beginneth *Achaia*, and spreadeth it selfe Northwards but a little way, vnto the hill *Othris*, which is the



## Of Greece, &c.

bounds betweene *Achaia* and *Macedonia*: but East and West much more largely; as Eastward, euen vnto the Iland *Eubea*, with a great promontorie, and West-ward bounding vnto *Epirus*.

The inhabitants of this place were they which properly are called *Achius*; which word is so oft vsed by *Virgil*. Here toward the East part stood *Boetia*, and vpon the Sea-coast looking South-ward toward *Morrah*, was *Athens*, which was famous for the Lawes of *Solon*, for the warres against *Sparta*, and many other Cities of *Gracia*: and for an Vniuersity of Learned men, which long continued there.

In this part of *Greece* stood *Parnassus*, and *Helicon*, so much talked of by the Poets, and *Phocis*, and *Thebes*, and briefly all the Cities whereof *Linie* speaking, doth tearme by the name of *Achai*, or *Vrbes Acheorum*.

The third prouince of *Gracia* called *Epirus*, lieth Westward from *Achaia*, and extends it selfe for a good space that way; but towards the North and South it is but narrow; lying along the Sea coast, & looking Southward on the Ilands of *Coregra*, and *Cephalonia*. This was the Countrey wherein *Olympias*, wife vnto *Philip* of *Macedonia*, and Mother vnto *Alexander* the great, was borne. This was also the Kingdome of that noble *Pirrhus*, which made such great wars against the *Romanes*; & in our latter age it was made renowned, by the valiant *Scanderbag*; who was so great a scourge vnto the *Turke*, whose life is so excellently written by *Martinus Partesius*. From the East part of *Epirus* Northward, lieth a Countrey, which was neuer noted by any famous names; but as it should seeme, was sometimes vnder *Epirus*, from which it lieth Northward: sometimes vnder *Macedonia*, from which it lieth Westward; and sometimes vnder *Illyria*, or *Dalmatia*, from which it lieth Southward; and it may be that there was in old time diuers free Cities there. *Illyricum* which confineth vpon

## Of Greece, &c.

vpon *Gracia* toward the North and West, neare vnto the top of the *Adriatique* Sea, and not farre from *Venice*, is for a good part of it at this day vnder the *Venecians*.

The fourth and greatest part of old *Gracia* was *Macedonia*; which is falsely by the Maps of the *Romane* Empire placed on the West-side of *Gracia*; for in truth it lyeth on the East-side, looking toward *Asia* the lesser, being bounded on the East-side by the Sea called *Mare Egeum*, on the South-side by *Achaia*, and the hill *Othris*, and part of *Epirus*: and on the West-side, by certaine great Mountaines; but on the North, by the hill *Hemus*.

This was the Kingdome so famous in times past for *Philip*, and *Alexander* his Sonne, who conquered the whole world, and caused the name of the third Empire to be attributed vnto this place. Here stood the hill *Athes*, whereof part was digged downe by the Army of *Xerxes* the great King of *Persia*, who warred against the *Gracians*. Here was the Hill *Olympus*, the Cittie of *Philippie*, where the *Philippians* dwelt, to whom *Saint Paul* wrote. Here was *Ampollonia*, *Amphipolis*, *Edessa*, *Pella*, *Theffalonica*, and *Berea*: yea, and the whole Country of *Theffalia*, lay on the South-side of this part of *Greece*.

In this Country of *Gracia*, were in ancient time many Kingdomes and States, as at this day there are in *Italy*; as the *Macedonians*, the Kingdome of *Epirus*, the State of *Athens*, the government of *Sparta*, the City of *Thebes*, and very many other places: insomuch that almost euery towne had a peculiar gouernment: But now it is all vnder one Monarchie.

From *Gracia* (in old time) did almost all famous things come. These were they that made the warre against *Troy*; that resisted *Xerxes* the mighty King of *Persia*; that had the famous Law-makers, as *Solon* in *Athens*, and *Licurgus* in *Lacedemon*; that tooke away the Monarchie from the *Persians*, that brought forth the famous



## Of the Sea betweene Europe and Asia.

Captaines : as *Themistocles*, *Miltiades*, *Alexander*, and many other that were the authours of ciuilitie vnto the Westerne nations, and to some in the East : as *Asia* the lesse, that gaue to *Italie* and to the *Romanes*, the first light of Learning; because from them arose the first Poets : as *Homer*, *Hesiodus*, *Sophocles*, and diuers other. The great Philosophers, *Socrates*, *Plato*, *Aristotle*, and all the sects of the *Academickes*, *Stoickes*, *Peripatetickes*, *Epicurians*, and almost all their Scholers. The great Oratours *Demosthenes*, and *Eschines*; and in one word (the Mathematickes excepted, which came rather from the *Chaldeans* and the *Egyptians*) the whole flowre of Arts and good Learning.

On the North-east part of *Gracia*, standeth *Thracia*, which though heretofore it hath beene distinguished, yet now it is accompted as the chiefe part of *Greece*: Here on the edge of the Sea-coast very neere vnto *Asia*, standeth the Citie called *Bizantium*, but since *Constantinople*: because *Constantine the great* did new build it, and made it an Imperiall Citie. This was the chiefe residence of the Emperour of *Gracia*, sometimes called *New Rome*, and the glory of the East; where the generall Counsell was once assembled, and one of the Seas of the Patriarks, who was called the *Patriarke of Constantinople*. But by the great discord of the Christians, all *Gracia*, and this City, are fallen into the hands of the *Turke*, who now maketh it his place of Imperiall abroad. It was woon in the time of *Constantine the last Emperour*; so that by *Constantine* it obtained his honour, and by *Constantine* it lost it. In this Citie lyeth resident with the *Turke* an Embassador, or Agent, for the King of *England*.

The Christians that doe liue now in *Gracia*, are in miserable seruitude vnto the *Turke*. They dilagree in many things from the doctrine of the Church of *Rome*.

Of Greece, &c.

Of the Sea running betweene  
Europe and Asia.



If there were no other argument, that the Northerne parts of the world were not discovered in times past, by any that trauelled that way, yet this would sufficiently auouch it, that there was neuer thought vpon any land betweene *Asia* and *Europe*, higher then the Riuer *Tanais*; which doth not extend it selfe very farre into the North, but is short of the vttermost bounds that was by the space of 4000. miles; but this Riuer, which by the *Tartarians* is now called *Don*, where it doth run, it leaueth *Asia* on the East-side, & *Europe* on the West: but going forward toward the South, it disburdneth it selfe into a dead Lake or Fen (for so it seemeth) which is called *Maotis Palus*, spoken of in the second book of *Iustine*, & not forgotten by *Ouid de ponto*: & at this day in the dead of winter, it is vsually so frozen, that the *Scythians* and *Tartarians* neere adioyning, doe both themselues and their Cattell, yea, sometimes with Sledges after them passe ouer, as if it were dry Land. On the Southern part of this *Maotis*, is a narrow Strait of the Sea, which is commonly called by the name of *Bosphorus Cimmerius*, because (as it is thought) sometime Oxen haue ventured to swimme crosse there from *Asia* to *Europe*, or backward. When the water hath run for a pretty space in so narrow a passage, there beginneth a great and wide Sea, named *Pontus Euxinus*: whither (as *Iosephus* reporteth) the Whale did carry the Prophet *Ionas*, and there did disburden himself of his carriage, by casting him vpon the land. At the mouth of this Sea, is a very great Straite, known by the name of *Thracius Bosphorus*: where the breadth of this Sea, is not aboue one mile, seuering *Asia* and *Europa*. On  
the




## Of the Sea betweene Europe and Asia.

the side of *Europe* standeth *Constantinople*. On the side of *Asia*, the Citie called *Pera*, or *Galata*, which for the neernes is by some reckoned a part of *Constantinople*. When any of the *Turkes* *Ianizaries* haue committed ought worthy of death, their custome is to send the same party in the night time ouer by boate, from *Constantinople* to *Pera*, where by the way he is thrown into the water, with a great stone about his neck, & then there is a peece of Ordinance shot off, which is a token of some such execution. The *Turk* is forced to take this course, least the rest of his *Ianizaries* should mutiny when any of their fellowes is put to death.

By reason of the standing of *Asia* and *Europe* so neere together, and the sea running between them; which serueth each place with all manner of commodities, it appeareth that *Constantinople* is maruailously, richly, and conveniently seated, and therefore a fit place from whence the *Turke* may offer to atchieue great attempts.

After this straite, the Sea openeth it selfe more large toward the South, and it is called by the name of *Propontis*. But then it groweth againe into another Straite, which they write to be in breadth about two miles; This is called *Hellepontus*, hauing on the one side *Abidus* in *Asia*, and on the other side *Sestus*, on the side of *Europe*. This is that place where *Xerxes* the great King of *Persia* did make his Bridge ouer the Sea, so much renowned in ancient Histories; which was not impossible, by reason of the narrownes the foundation of his, bridge being rested on ships. Here also may appeare the reason of the story of *Leander* and *Hero*: which *Leander* is reported for the loue of *Hero*, to haue oftentimes swomme ouer the Sea, till at last he was drowned. From this Straite Southward, the Sea groweth more wide, and is called afterwards by the name of *Mare Egeum*, and so descendeth vnto the full *Mediterraneum*.

*Of Asia, and first of Tartarie.*

N the North-side of *Asia*, ioyning vnto the dominion of the Emperour of *Russia*, is *Tartarie*, in ancient time called *Scythia*: the bounds whereof did then extend themselves into a good part of *Europe*; & therefore was called *Scythia Europa* but the greatest part of it lyeth in *Asia*; a mighty large Country, extending it selfe on the North to the vttermoſt Sea: on the East to the dominion of the great *Cham*, or Prince of *Cathai*: on the South downe to *Mare Caspium*. The *Tartarians*, which now inhabit it, are men of great stature, rude of behauiour, no *Christians*, but *Gentiles*; neither doe they acknowledge *Mahomet*. They haue few or no Cities among them, but after the manner of the old *Scythians*, do liue in Wilderneſſes, lying vnder their Carts, and following their droues of Cattell, by the Milke whereof they doe nourish themselves. They ſow no Corne at all, becauſe they abide not long in any one place: but taking their direction from the North-pole ſtarre, they remove from one coaſt of their Countrey vnto another. The Country is populous, & the men are great warriors, fighting alwayes on Horſebacke with their Bow and Arrowes, and a ſhort Sword. They haue amongſt them infinite ſtore of Horſes: whereof they ſell many into the Countries neare adioyning. Their ordinary food in their warres is Horſe-fleſh, which they uſe to eate raw, being chaſed a little by hanging at their Saddle.

They haue great wars with the Countries adioyning: but eſpecially with the *Muſconite*, and ſometimes with the *Turke*: From hence came *Tamberlaine*, who brought 700000. of the *Tartarians* at once into the field; when he



## Of Cathaie, and China.

distressed and tooke prisoner *Baiazeth* the great *Turke*: whom he afterward forced to feede as a Dogge vnder his Table.

They haue now among them many Princes and Gouvernours: as, those haue one, whom they call the *Crim Tartars*: and those haue another, which are the *Tartars* of *Magaie*, and so diuers others.

The *English* haue laboured (to their great expenses) to finde out the way by the North Seas of *Tartaria*, to goe into *Cathaie* and *China*; but by reason of the frozen Seas, they haue not yet preuailed: although it hath been reported that the *Flemings* haue discovered that passage: which would be (very likely) to the great benefit of the Northerne parts of Christendome; yet that report doth not continue, and therefore it is to be thought that the *Flemings* haue not proceeded so farre.

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## Of Cathaie, and China.

**N**Ext beyond *Tartaria*, on the North-East part of *Asia*, lieth a great Country, called *Cathaie*: the bounds whereof extend themselves on the North and East, to the vttermost Seas; and on the South to *China*. The people are not much learned, but more ciuill then the *Tartars*; and haue good and ordinary traffique with the Countries adioyning.

This Country hath in it many Kings, which are tributaries, & do owe obedience vnto one, whom they call the Great *Cham*, or *Can* of *Cathaie*, who is the chiefe Gouvernor of all the Land, and esteemed for multitude of people and largenes of dominion, to be one of the greatest Princes of the World: but his name is the lesse famous, for that he lieth so far distant from the best Nations, and the passage into

## Of Cathaie, and China.

into his Country is so dangerous, either for the perils of the sea, or for the long space by Land. His chiefe imperi-  
all Citie is called *Cambula*. On the South-side of *Cathaie*  
and East part of *Asia*, next to the sea, lieth *China*; and the  
people thereof, *Osius* describeth by the name of *Sina*,  
and calleth their country *Sinaram Regio*. This is a fruitfull  
Countrey, and yeeldeth as great store of rich commodi-  
ties, as almost any Country in the world. It containeth in  
it, very many severall Kingdomes, which are absolute  
Princes in their seates. The chiefe City in this Country is  
called *Quinsae*, and is described to be of incredible great-  
nesse, as were wont to be the ancient Cities in the East;  
as *Babylon*, *Ninie*, and others.

This Country was first discovered by the late Nauiga-  
tion of the *Portugals* into the *East Indies*.


The people of *China*, are learned almost in all Arts,  
very skilfull workmen in curious fine workes of all sorts,  
so that no country yeeldeth more precious Merchandize,  
then the workmanship of them. They are great Souldiers,  
very politicke and craftie, and in respect thereof contem-  
ning the wits of others, vsing a Prouerbe, that all other  
nations doe see but with one eye, but they themselues  
with two.

*Petrus Massens* Historiographer to the King of *Spaine*,  
for the *Easterne Indies*, doth report of them, that they  
haue had from very ancient time among them these two  
things, which we hold to be the miracles of Christendome  
and but lately inuented: The one is the vse of Guns for the  
wars, and the other is Printing; which they vse not as we  
doe, writing from the left hand vnto the right; or as the  
*Hebrewes* and *Syrians*, from the right hand vnto the left:  
but directly downward, and so their lines at the top doe  
begin againe.



## Of the East Indies.

## Of the East Indies.

N the South-side of *China*, toward the *Molucco* Islands, and the *Indian* Sea, lyeth the great Countrey of *India*, extending it selfe from the South-part of the Continent, by the space of many thousand miles Westward, vnto the Riuer *Indus*, which is the greatest Riuer in all the Countrey, except *Ganges*, one of the greatest Riuers in the World; which lyeth in the East part of the same *Indies*.

This is that Countrey so-famous in ancient time, for the great riches thereof, for the multitude of people, for the conquest of the *Bacchus* ouer it: for the passage thither of *Alexander* the great, throughout all the length of *Asia*; for his aduenturing to goe into the South Ocean with so mighty a Nauie, which few or none had euer attempted before him: And certainly thither it was that *Salomon* did send once in three yeares for his Gold and other rich Marchandize: for the Scripture saith, that he sent his fleete from *Ezion-geber*, which stood vpon the mouth of the Red Sea, and it was the directest passage which he had vnto the Easterne *Indies*; whereas if his purpose had been to send to *Peru*, as some lately haue imagined, his course had been through the *Mediterranean* Sea, and the Straites of *Gibraltar*.

This Countrey had in ancient time, many absolute Kingdomes and Prouinces: as in the time of *Alexander*, *Porus*, *Taxiles*, and diuers others. In it were many Philosophers, and men of great Learning, whom they called *Gymnophists*, of whom was *Calanus*, who burnt himselfe before *Alexander*.

The men of the South part of *India* are blacke, and therefore are called men of *Inde*. The Cattell of all sorts that

## Of the East Indies.

that are bred there, are of incredible bignesse, in respect of other Countries, as their Elephants, Apes, Munkies, Emets, and other.

The riches hereof hath bin very great, with abundance of gold, in so much that the Promontory, which is now called *Malacka*, was in times past named *Aurea Chersonesus*. The commodity of Spice is exceeding great that comes from thence.

The *Portugals* were the first, which by their long navigations beyond the *Equinoctiall*, and the farthermost part of *Africa*, haue of late yeares discovered these Countries to Christendome: as heretofore to the vse of the King of *Portugale*, so now of the King of *Spaine*, who is reputed owner of them.

The *Portugales* did finde diuers Kingdomes at their first arriuall in these parts, as the Kingdome of *Calecut*, the Kingdome of *Cambai*, the kingdome of *Cananor*, the kingdom of *Cochin*, and very many other, with the Kings whereof they first entring league and traffike, and hauing leaue giuen to build Castles for their defence, they haue since by policy encroched into their hands a great part of the Country which lieth neare vnto the sea coast, and are mighty now, for the space of many thousand miles together. The king of *Spaine* hath there a vize-roy, whose residence is commonly in the Imperiall Citie called *Goa*. They doe euery yeare send home great store of rich commodities into *Spaine*.

The people of the Countrey when the *Portugales* came first thither, were for the most part *Gentiles*, beleeuing in no one God: yea, at this day there are diuers of them who doe adore the Sunne as their God, and euery morning at the rising thereof, goe vse very superstitious ceremonies; which our Merchants, who doe trade to *Aleppo* doe oftentimes see; for diuers of these *Indians* doe comethither with Merchandize. But the *Sarazens*, who




## Of Persia.

reuerence the Prophet *Mahomet*, from the Bayes or Gulphes of *Persia* and *Arabia*, doe traffique much thither, so that *Mahomet* was knowne among them: but in one Towne called *Granganor*, they found certaine Christians dissenting in many things from the Church of *Rome*, and rather agreeing with the Protestants, which christians had receiued (by succession) their Religion, from the time of *Thomas* the Apostle, by whom (as it is recorded in the ancient ecclesiasticall Historie) part of *India* was conuerted.

In this Country of *India* are many great and potent Kings and Kingdomes, which had beene altogether vnknowne and vnheard of in our part of the World, but that we were beholding to the *Portugals* for their discovery; and before their Nauigation thither, by the backside of *Africke*, to some relations that we had from the *Venetians*, who traded and trauelled thither by land out of *Turkie*. The names of these Kings and Kingdomes are these; The King of *Biarme*; the great *Mogol*, the King of *Narsing*, *Pegn*, *Siam*, the forenamed King of *Calicut*, and others.

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## Of Persia.

 Here be diuers Countries betweene *India* and *Persia*, but they are not famous. *Persia* is a large Countrey, which lyeth farre West from *India*: it hath on the North *Affiria* and *Medea*, on the West *Syria* and the *Holy land*: but next vnto it *Mesopotamia*: on the South the maine Ocean, which entreth in notwithstanding by a Bay called *Sinus Persicus*.

This is that Country, which in ancient time was so renowned for the great riches, and Empire thereof. These were they who tooke from the *Affirians* the Monarchie, and

## Of Persia.

and did set vp in their Country the second great Empire, which began vnder *Cyrus*, and continued vnto that *Darius*, who was ouerthrowne by *Alexander* the great. In this Country raigned the great Kings, *Cyrus*, *Cambises*, *Darius* the Son of *Histaspes*, the great *Xerxes*, *Artaxerxes*, and many others; which in prophane writings are famous for their wars against the *Scythians*, *Egyptians*, and *Grecians*, and in the Scripture, for the deliuey of the *Iewes* from *Babylon* by *Cyrus*, for building of the second Temple at *Ierusalem*, and for many things which are mentioned of them in the Prophecie of *Daniel*.

The people of this Nation, although they were in former times very riotous, by reason of their great wealth: yet after they had lost their Monarchie by the *Macedonians*; they haue growne great Souldiers: and therefore as they did euer strongly defend themselves against the old *Romans*: so in the time of *Constantine*, and the other Emperors, they were fearefull neighbors to the *Romane* government: and of late time, they haue strongly opposed themselves against the *Turkes*, euer making their party good with them. And yet notwithstanding, in the daies of *Aniurath* the third father to *Mahomet* the *Turke* now rainging, the *Turke* had a great hand vpon the *Persian*; going so far with his Armie, as that he tooke the strong Citie *Tauris* standing within the *Persian* dominions, neer vnto the *Caspian* Sea, but this losse was to be attributed, partly to the great dissentions which were among the *Persians* themselves, and partly to the multitude of the *Turke* his Souldiers, who by fresh supply did ouer-beare the *Persian*, although he slew downe many thousands of them.

They fight commonly on Horse-backe; and are gouerned as in time past, by a king; so now by an absolute Ruler and a mighty Prince; whom they tearme the *Sham*, or *Sophy* of *Persia*. He hath many Countries, and small Kings in *Assyria*, and *Media*, and the Countries adioyning, which are tributaries.

Among



## Of Parthia and Media.

Among other the *Sophies* of *Persia*, about a hundred yeares since, there was one of great power, called *Ismael* the *Persian*, who procured vnto himselfe great fame by his many and valorous attempts against the *Turke*. *Surius* in his Commentaries, writing vpon him, saith: that vpon some fond conceit, the *Jemes* were strongly of opinion that he was that *Messias* whom vnto this day they expect; and therefore hoped that he should haue been their deliuerer and aduancer: But he addeth in his report, that it fell out so cleane contrary, that there was no man who more vexed and grieved them, then that *Ismael* did.

The *Persians* are all at this day *Sarazens* in Religion, beleeuing in *Mahomet*: but as Papists and Protestants doe differ in opinion concerning the same Christ, so doe the *Turkes* and *Persians* about their *Mahomet*: the one pursuing the other, as Heretiques, with most deadly hatred, in so much that there is, in this respect, almost continuall wars betweene the *Turke* and the *Persians*.

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## Of Parthia, and Media.



N the North-east side of *Persia*, lieth that countrey which in old time was called *Parthia*, but now named *Arach*, of whom, those great wars of the *Romanes* with the *Medians* or *Armenians*, in *Tacitus*, and ancient Histories, are true.

This Country boundeth on *Media* by the West, and it was in ancient time very full of people: Whose fight as it was very much on horse-backe, so the manner of them continually was for to giue an onset, and then to returne their waies; even to returne againe like to the *Wilde-Irish*: so that no man was sure when hee had obtained any victorie over them.

These

## Of Parthia, and Media:

These were the people that gaue the great ouerthrow to that rich *Marcus Crassus* of Rome, who by reason of his couetousnesse (intending more to his getting of Golde, then to the guiding of his Army) was slaine himselfe, and many thousands of the *Romans*; The *Parthians* with exprobration of his thirst after Mony, poured moulted gold into his mouth after he was dead. Against these, the great *Lucullus* fought many battailes; but the *Romans* were neuer able to bring them quite to subiection.

On the West-side of *Parthia* (hauing the *Mare Caspium* on the North, *Armenia* on the West, and *Persia* on the South) lyeth that Country which in time past was called *Media*, but now *Sbiruan* or *Seruan*; which is at this day gouerned by many inferiour Kings and Princes, which are tributaries, and doe owe subiection to the *Sophie* of *Persia*. So that he is the Soueraigne Lord of all *Media*, as our *English-men* haue found; who passing through the dominion of the Emperor of *Russia*, haue crossed the *Mare Caspium*, and merchandized with the inhabitants of this *Media*.

This Nation in former times was very famous; for the *Medes* were they that remoued the Empire from the *Assirians* vnto them: which as in themselves it was not great, yet when by *Cyrus* it was ioyned to that of the *Persians*, it was very mighty, and was called by the name of the Empyre of the *Medes* and *Persians*. Here it was that *Astyages* raigned, the Grandfather of *Cyrus* and *Darius* of the *Medes*.

The chiefe City of this Kingdome was called *Ecbatana*, as the chiefe City of *Persia* was *Babylon*.

It is obserued of the Kings of *Media*, that in the summer time they did vse to retire themselves North-ward vnto *Ecbatana*, for auoyding of the heate: but in the winter time they came downe more South vnto *Susis*, which as it seemeth was a warmer place: but by this meanes they



## Of Armenia, and Assiria.

were both taken for imperiall Cities, and chiefe residences of the Kings of *Media*: which being knowne, takes away some confusion in old Stories. The like custome was afterward vsed also by the Kings of *Persia*.

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## Of Armenia, and Assyria.



IN the West-side of the *Mare Caspium*, and of *Media*, lyeth a Country called by a generall name *Armenia*; which by some is distinctly deuided into three parts: the North-part whereof being but little, is called *Georgia*; the middle part *Turcomania*: the third part, by the proper name of *Armenia*. By which a man may see the reason of difference in diuers writers: Some saying that the Country whence the *Turkes* first came, was *Armenia*, some saying *Turcomania*, and some *Georgia*: the truth being, that out of one, or all these Countries they did descend. These *Turkes* are supposed to be the issue of them whom *Alexander* the great did shut vp within certaine Mountaines neere to the *Mare Caspium*.

There is this one thing memorable in *Armenia*, that after the great floud, the Arke of *Noah* did rest it selfe on the Mountaines of *Armenia*, where, (as *Iosephus* witnesseth) it is to be seene yet to this day; the hills whereon it resteth are called by some *Noe Montes*.

The people of this Nation, haue retayned amongst them the Christian Faith, as it is thought from the time of the Apostles; but at this day it is spotted with many absurdities.

Among other Errours which the Church of *Armenia* hath bin noted to hold, this is one; that they did bathe their children, wauing them vp and downe in flames of fire,

## Of Armenia, and Assyria.

fire, and repute that to be a necessary circumstance of Baptisme: Which error ariseth by mistaking that place of *Iohn the Baptist*, where he saith, *That he that came after him* (meaning Christ) *should baptize them with the Holy Ghost, and with Fire*: in which place the word doth not signifie materiall Fire, but expresseth the liuely and purging operation of the Spirit, like to the Nature of Fire.

On the South part of *Armenia*, bending towards the East, lyeth the Country of *Assyria*, which is bounded on the West with *Mesopotamia*. This Country was that Land wherein the first Monarchy was settled, which began vnder *Ninus*, whom the Scripture calleth *Nimrod*, liuing not long after *Noahs* Flood, and it ended in *Sardinapalus*, continuing a thousand and three hundred yeares.

The King of this Country was *Senacherib*, of whom we read in the booke of the Kings; and here reigned *Nebuchadnezzar* who tooke *Ierusalem*, and led the *Iewes* away prisoners vnto *Babylon*.

In this Country, is the swift riuer *Tygris*, neare vnto the which was *Paradise*: Vpon this Riuer stood the great City *Niniuee*, called by prophane writers *Ninus*; which was almost of incredible bignesse, and exceeding populous, by the neerenesse of the Riuer, and maruellous fruitfulnessse of the soyle, which as *Herodotus* writeth, did returne their Corne sometime 200. and sometime 300. fold, and did yeelde sufficiency for to maintaine it. This City for a long time was the imperiall Seate of the Monarchy; but being destroyed (as God foretold it should be, by the *Chaldeans*) the residence of the King was afterwards rempoued vnto *Babylon*, a great City in *Chaldea*, first built by *Semiramus*.



## Of Chaldea.

## Of Chaldea.



Ext vnto *Assyria*, lyeth *Chaldea*, hauing on the East side *Assyria*; on the West *Syria* or *Palestina*; on the North *Armenia*; on the South the desert of *Arabia*.

This country is often called by the name of *Mesopotamia*, which name it hath, because it lyeth in the middle of two great Riuer, *Tygris* and *Euphrates*. It is called also by the name of *Babilonia*; which word, of it selfe properly taken, doth signifie onely that part of the Country which standeth about *Babylon*.

The chiefe City hereof was *Babylon*, whose ruins doe remaine to this day. It was a rich and most pleasant City for all kinde of delight; and was in the latter time of that Monarchie, the imperiall City of the *Assyrians*, where *Nabuchadnezzar* and other their great kings did lye.

It was to this City that the Children of *Israell* were carried captiues, which thereof was called the Captiuitie of *Babilon*.

The Kings of *Persia* also did keepe their residence here, it was built vpon the Riuer *Euphrates*, some part of it standing on the one side, and some part on the other, hauing for its foundresse *Semiramis* the wife of *Ninus*.

*Ammianus Marcellinus* reporteth one thing of this countrie, wherein the admirable power of God doth appeare; for he writeth that in these parts are a huge number of Lyons, which were like enough to deuoure vp both men and beastes throughout the Countrey: but withall hee saith, that by reason of the store of water and mudde thereof, there do breed yearly an innumerable company of Gnats, whose propertie is to flye vnto the eye of the Lion, as being a bright and orient thing; where biting and  
Ringing

## Of Chaldea.

stinging the Lyon, he teareth so fiercely with his clawes, that he putteth out his owne eyes, & by that meanes many are drowned in the Riuer, others starue for want of pray, & many the more easily killed by the Inhabitants.

It is supposed by Diuines, that in this *Mesopotamia*; betweene the Riuer *Tigris* and *Euphrates*, *Paradise* did stand. This was the Countrey wherein *Abraham* the Patriarch was borne: vnto which the *Romanes* could very hardly extend their dominion: For they had much to doe to get the gouernment of any thing beyond the Riuer *Euphrates*. From this people it is thought the wisemen came which brought presents to *Christ*, by the guiding of the Starre.

For as in *India*, and all the Easterne parts; so especially in this Countrey, their Noblemen and Priests, and very many people, doe giue themselves to all Arts of diuination. Here were the great South-sayers, Enchaunters, and wise men, as they call them: Here were the first Astrologians, which are so described, and derided in the Scripture: and against the inhabitants of *Babylon* and *Chaldea* were the Lawes of the *Romanes* made, which are against diuining Mathematicians, who in *Tullie de Diuinatione*, & *Cornelius Tacitus*, as also in the lawes of the Emperours, are ordinarily collected by the name of *Chaldeans*: and indeede from these, and from the *Egyptians*, is supposed to haue sprung the first knowledge of Astronomy.

It is thought that a great reason wherefore these *Chaldeans* were expert in the laudable knowledge of Astronomy was partly because the Countrey is so plaine, that being without hills, they might more fully & easily discover the whole face of the Heauen, and partly because the old Fathers which liued so long, not onely before, but in some good part also after the flood of *Noah*, did dwel in or near to these parts, and they by obseruation of their owne, did




## Of Asia the lesse.

finde out, and discover many things of the heauenly bodies, which they deliuered as from hand to hand in their posterity: But as corruption doth staine the best things, so in processe of time, the true Astronomy was defiled with superstitious rules of Astrologie (which caused the Prophets *Isaiab* and *Ieremie*, so bitterly to inueigh against them.) And then, in their fabulositie they would report that they had in their Records obseruations for 25000. yeares, which must needs be a very great vntruth, vnlesse we will qualifie it, as some haue done, expounding their yeares, not of the reuolution of the Sunne, but of the Moone, whose course is ended in the space of a Month.

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## Of Asia the lesse.

N the North-west side of *Mesopotamia* lyeth that Countrey which is now called *Natolia*, but in times past *Asia Minor*, hauing on the North-side *Pontus Euxinus*, on the West, the *Hellespont*, and on the South, the maine *Mare Mediterraneum*. In the ancient writings, both of the *Gracians*, and of the *Romanes*, this is oftentimes called by the single name of *Asia*, because it was best knowne vnto them, and they were not so much acquainted with the farther places of *Asia* the great.

This Countrey in generall, for the fruitfulnessse of the Land, standing in so temperate a Climate, and for the conueniencie of the Sea euery way, and so many good hauens, hath beene reputed alwaies a very commodious and pleasurefull Countrey. It is wholly at this day vnder the *Turke*. The Mountaine *Taurus* goeth along from the West vnto the East part of it.

The greatnesse of this Countrey is such, that it hath comprehended

## Of Asia the lesse.

prehended many kingdomes and large Prouinces, besides Cities of great fame. On the South-east part thereof, neere to *Palastina*, lieth *Cilicia*, the chiefe Citie whereof is *Tarsus*, the Country of Saint *Paul*; the place whither *Salomon* sent for great store of his Gold, and prouision for the Temple, whither *Ionas* also fled, when he should haue gone to *Ninnee*.

In the Straits of this *Cilicia*, neare to the mountaine *Taurus*, did *Alexander* giue a great overthrow in person to *Darius*, in the ioyning of their first battaile.

This place seemes to haue beene very fortunate for great fights, in as much as there also neer vnto the Straits, was the battaile fought out betweene *Seuerus* the Emperour and *Niger*; who being Gouvernour of the *Romanes* of *Syria*, would needs haue aspired to the Empire, but in a Battaille which was very hardly fought out, he was overthrowne in the Straits of *Cilicia*.

In the very corner where *Cilicia* is ioyned vnto the vpper part of *Syria*, is a little Bay, which in times past was named *Sinus Isicus*, neare vnto which *Alexander* built one of his Cities, which he called by his owne name. But howsoeuer in times past it was named *Alexandria*, it is now by the *Venecians* and other Christians, called *Alexandretta*; as who should say, little *Alexandria*, in comparison of the other. In *Egypt*, the *Turkes* doe call it *Scanderond*, and it is a pettie Hauen, where our Merchants doe land most of their goods, which are afterwards by Cammels carried vnto *Aleppo*. At this day the Citie is so decayed, that there be onely a few houses there.

Westward from *Cilicia*, lieth the Prouince called *Pamphilia*; wherein standeth the City *Selencia* built by *Seleucus*, one of the foure great successors of *Alexander* the great.

On the West of this *Pamphilia*, standeth *Lycia*; and more West from thence confining vpon the Ile of *Rhodes* is *Caria*: one of the Sea-townes whereof is *Helicarnessus*, which



## Of Asia the lesse.

which was the Country of *Herodotus*, who is one of the most ancient Historians that is extant of the *Gentiles*, and who dedicated his nine Bookes to the honour of the *Muses*.

Here also was that *Dionisius* borne, who is called commonly *Dionisius Halicarnassus*: one of the Writers of the *Romane* Storie for the first three hundred yeares after *Rome* was built.

The whole Country of *Caria* is sometimes signified by the name of this *Halicarnassus*, although it was but one Citie; and thereupon *Artemissia*, who in the daies of *Xerxes* came to aide him against the *Gracians*, and behaued her selfe so manfully in a great fight at Sea, when *Xerxes* stood by as a coward, is intituled by the name not of Queene of *Caria*, but of *Halicarnassus*. Also in the daies of *Alexander* the great, there was another Queene, named *Ada*; who also is honoured by the title of Queene of *Halicarnassus*.

We haue thus farre described those Cities of *Asia* the lesse, which doelye from that part that ioyneth vnto *Syria*, along the Sea-coast Westward; but being indeede the Southerne part of *Asia minor*.

Now vpwards toward the North, standeth *Ionia*, where those did dwell who had like to haue ioyned with *Xerxes* in the great battell at sea; but that *Themistocles* by a pollicy did winne them from him, to take part with the *Gracians*. *Diodorus Siculus* writeth, that the *Athenians*, who professed to be of kin to those *Ionians*, were on a time marueilous importunate with them, that they should leaue their owne Country, and come and dwell with them: which when the *Ionians*, hardly, but yet at length, did accept, the *Athenians* had no place to put them in, and so they returned, with great disgrace to them both.

A little within the Land, lying North and East from *Ionium*, was *Lydia*, which sometimes was the Kingdome of *Cresus*, who was reputed so rich a King when he was in his

## Of Asia the lesse.

his prosperitie, making best of his happines; he was tolde by *Solon*, that no man could reckon vpon felicity so long as hee liued, because there might be great mutability of fortune, which he afterward found true: For he was taken prisoner by *Cyrus*, who was once minded to haue put him to death; but hearing him report the aduertisement of *Solon* formerly giuen to him, he was moued to thinke that it might be his owne case, and so tooke pittie on him and spared his life.

These *Lydians* being inhibited afterward by *Cyrus* to vse any armour, did giue themselues to baths and Stewes, and other such effeminate things.

Vpon the Sea coast in *Ionia*, standeth the City *Ephesus* which was one of the Seauen Cities, vnto which *Iohn* in his Reuelation did write his seauen Epistles: And *Saint Paul* also directed his Epistle to the *Ephesians*, vnto the Church which was in this place.

This was one of the most renowned Cities of *Asia* the lesse; but the fame thereof did most arise from the Temple of *Diana*, which was there built, and was reputed for the magnificence thereof one of the seauen wonders of the world. This Temple was said to be 200. yeares in building, and was burnt seauen seuerall times, whereof the most part was by lightning, and the finall destruction thereof, came by a base person, called *Herostratus*; who to purchase himsefse some fame, did set it on fire.

This was the place of which it is said in the *Acts* of the Apostles, that all *Asia*, and the whole world, doe worship this *Diana*.

*Tullie* reporteth *De Natura Deorum*, that *Timaeus* being asked the reason why the Temple of *Diana* was on fire that night when *Alexander* the great was borne; gaue that iest thereof, that the mistresse of it was from home; because shee being the Goddesse of Mid-wiues, did that night waite vpon *Olimpius* the Mother of *Alexander*



## Of Asia the lesse.

*Alexander* the great, who was brought to bed in *Macedonia*.

Another of the Seauen Cities vnto which *Iohn* did write, is *Smirna*, standing also in *Ionia*, vpon the Sea coast, but some-what more North then *Ephesus*; which is the place where *Polycarpus* was Bishop, who sometimes had beene Scholler vnto *Iohn* the Euangelist. and liuing till he was of great age, was at last put to death for Christs sake, when before he had beene moued by the Gouvernour of the Countrie to deny his Saviour, and to burne incense to an Idoll: but he answered, that fourescore and sixe yeeres he had serued *Christ Iesus*, and in all that time hee had neuer done him harme; and therefore now in his old age he would not begin to denie him.

The third Citie vnto which the Epistle is directed in the *Apocalips*, is *Sardis*: which standeth within the Land in *Lydia*, as is described by the best Writers; and it was a Citie both of great pleasure and profit vnto the Kings in whose Dominion it stood: which may be gathered hereby, that when once the *Gracians* had won it, *Darius Histaspis*, or *Xerxes*, who were Kings of *Persia*, did giue charge that euery day at dinner, one speaking aloud, should remember him that the *Gracians* had taken *Sardis*; which intended, that he neuer was in quiet till it might be recovered againe.

There stood also in the In-land, *Philadelphia*, *Thyatira*, *Laodicea*, and most of all to the North, *Pergamus*: which were the other foure Cities vnto which *Iohn* the Euangelist did direct his Epistle.

Going vpward from *Ionium* to the North, there lyeth on the Sea coast a little Country, called *Aolis*: and beyond that, although not vpon the Sea, the two prouinces called *Mysia Maior*, and *Mysia Minor*; which in times past, were so base and contemptible, that the people there-  
of

## Of Asia the lesse.

of were vsed in speech as a prouerbe, that if a man would describe one meaner then the meanest, it was said he was *Mysiorum postremus*.

On the West part of *Mysia-maior*, did lie the Country called *Troas*, wherein stood *Ilium*, and the Citie of *Troy*, against which as both *Virgil* and *Homer* haue written, the *Grecians* did continue their siege for the space of tenne yeares, by reason that *Paris* had stolne away *Helena* the wife of *Menelaus*, who was King of *Sparta*.

Eastward both from *Troas* and *Mysia-Maior*, a good space within the Land was the Country called *Phrygia*: wheret the Goddesse which was called *Bona Dea*, or *Pes-sinentia*, or *Sibill*, the Mother of the old Gods, had her first abiding, and from thence (as *Herodian* writeth) was brought to *Rome*, as imploying that good fortune should follow her thither.

In this Country liued that *Gordius*, who knit the knot, called for the intricatenesse thereof, *Nodus Gordianus*; and when it could not be vntied, was cut in sunder by *Alexander* the great, supposing that it should be his fortune, for the loosing of it so, to be the conquerour and King of *Asia*, as by a prophecie of the same *Gordius* had beene before spoken.

Yet North-ward from *Phrygia*, lyeth the Countrie of *Bithinia*, which was sometimes a Kingdome, where *Prussias* raigned, that had so much to doe with the *Romanes*.

In this Countrie standeth the Citie *Nicea*, where the first generall Counsell was held against *Arius* the Heretick, by *Constantine* the great, thereof called the *Nicene Counsell*. Here standeth also *Chalcedon*, where the fourth generall Counsell was held by the Emperour *Martianus* against the Heretique *Nestorius*.

From *Bythinia* East-ward, on the Northside of *Asia* the lesse, standeth the Country of *Paphlagonia*, where was the Citie built by *Pompey* the great, called by his name



## Of Asia the lesse.

*Pompeiopolis*. On the South of *Paphlagonia*, toward the Island of *Asia Minor* did stand the Country of *Galatia*, whereunto *SSint Paul* wrote his Epistle to the *Galatians*. And this also was one of those countries where the *Iewes* were dispersed, vnto which *S. Peter* wrot his first Epistle. As also vnto them which were in *Pontus Cappadocia*, and *Bythynia*, from whence Southward lyeth the Prouince termed *Lycaonia*: And from thence yet more South, bordering vpon *Pamphilia*, who toucheth the *Mediterranean Sea*, lyeth *Pisidia*; concerning which Countries we finde oftentimes mention made in such Stories as doe touch *Asia the lesse*.

From these Southerne parts, if we returne backe againe vnto the North and East of *Asia maior*, lyeth the Kingdome of *Pontus*, confining vpon that which is named *Pontus Euxinus*. In this *Pontus* did raigne *Mithridates*, who in his yonger daies had trauelled ouer the greatest part of *Asia*, and is reported to haue been so skilfull, that he could well speake more then twentie languages. His hatred was euer great towards the *Romanes*, against whom when hee ment first to put his malice in practise, hee so combined with the naturals of those parts, that in one night they slew more then 70000. of the *Romanes*, carrying their intendment so close, that it was reuealed by none, till the execution was done.

*Pompey the great*, was the man who distressed this *Mithridates*, and brought him to that extremity, that hee would gladly haue poisoned himselfe, but could not; in as much as his stomake had been vsed so before vnto that kinde of Treacle (which by reason of his inuention of, vnto this day is called *Mithridate*.) which is made of a kinde of poison allayed, that no venome would easily worke vpon him.

Southward from this *Pontus* standeth the old kingdom of *Cappadocia*, which in times past was obserued to haue many

## Of Syria, and the Holy Land.

many men in it, but little money: Whence *Horace* saith;  
*Mancipij locuples eget aris Cappadocum Rex.*

Eastward from this *Cappadocia*, as also from *Pontus*, is  
*Armenia Minor*; whereof the things memorable, are de-  
scribed in the other *Armenia*. And thus much touching  
*Asia* the lesse.

## Of Syria and Palestina, or the Holy Land.



Southward from *Silicia* and *Asia* the lesse,  
lyeth *Syria*; a part whereof was called *Palesti-  
na*: hauing on the East *Mesopotamia*, on the  
South *Arabia*, on the West *Tyre* and *Sydon*,  
and the end of the *Mediterranean Sea*.

The people of this *Syria* were in times past called the  
*Aramites*. In their language is the translation of the new  
Testament, called *Syriacke*.

In this Country standeth *Antioch*; which was some-  
times one of the ancient Patriarches Sees, and is a City  
of reckoning vnto this day. Here also standeth now the  
City of *Aleppo*, which is a famous Mart towne for the  
marchandizing of the *Persians*, and other of the East, and  
for the *Turkes*, and such Countries as be adioyning. Here  
standeth also *Tripolis*.

The South part of *Syria* lying downe toward *Egypt*  
and *Arabia*, was the place where the Children of *Israel* did  
dwel, being a Country of small quantity, not 200. *Italian*  
myles in length: it was so fruitfull flowing with Milke  
and Hony (as the Scripture calleth it) that it did maintain  
about 30. Kings and their people, before the comming of  
the Children of *Israel* out of *Egypt*: and was sufficient



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afterwards to relieue the incredible number of the twelue Tribes of *Israel*.

It is noted of this Country, that whereas by the goodnesse of the Climate wherein it stood, and the fertility of the Soyle (but especially by the blessing of God) it was the most fruitfull land that was in the World: now our Trauellers by experience doe finde the Country in respect of the fruitfulness to be changed, God curling the land together with the *Jewes*, the inhabitants of it. It is obserued also for all the Easterne parts, that they are not so fertile as they haue bin in former ages, the Earth as it were growing old, which is an argument of the dissolution to come by the day of iudgement.

Through this Country doth run the Riuer *Jordan*, which hath heretofore beene famous for the fruitfulness of the Trees standing thereupon, and for the mildnes of the aire, so that (as *Iosephus* writeth) when snow hath bin in other places of the land, about the Riuer it hath been so calme, that men did goe in single thin linnen garments.

In this Country standeth the Lake, called *Lacus Asphaltites*, because of a kinde of Slime called *Bitumen* or *Asphaltum*, which daily it doth cast vp, being of force to ioyne stones exceeding fast in building: And into this lake doth the Riuer *Jordan* runne.

This lake is it which is called *Mare mortuum*; a Sea, because it is salt, and *mortuum* or *dead*, for that no liuing thing is therein. The water thereof is so thicke, that few things will sinke therein, inso much that *Iosephus* saith, that an Oxe hauing all his legges bound, will not sinke into that water.

The nature of this lake (as it was supposed) was turned into this quality, when God did destroy *Sodome* and *Gomorrab*, and the Cities adioyning, with fire & Brimstone from heauen: for *Sodome* and the other Cities did stand neere vnto *Jordan*, and to this *Mare mortuum*: for the destruction

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destruction of whom all that coast to this day, is a witness, the earth smelling of Brimstone, being desolate and yeelding no fruit sauing Apples, which grow with a faire shew to the eye, like other fruit, but as soone as they are touched, doe turne presently to soote or ashes, as besides *Iosephus*, *Solinus* doth witnesse in his 48. Chapter.

The land of *Palestina* had for its inhabitants, all the twelue Tribes of *Israel*, which were vnder one kingdome till the time of *Rehoboam* Sonne of *Salomon*; But then were they diuided into two Kingdomes, ten Tribes being called *Israel*, and two *Iudah*, whose chiefe Citie was called *Ierusalem*.

The ten Tribes after much Idolatrie, were carried prisoners vnto *Affiria*; and the Kingdome dissolued, other people being placed in their roome in *Samaria*, and the countrie adioyning.

The other two Tribes were properly called the *Iewes*, and their land *Iudea*; which continued long after in *Ierusalem*, and thereabout, till the Captiuitie of *Babylon*; where they liued for seauentie yeares. They were afterward restored, but liued without glory, till the comming of *Christ*: But since this time for a curse vpon them & their children, for putting *Christ* to death, they are scattered vpon the face of the earth, as runnagates, without certaine Countrie, King, Priest or Prophet.

In their chiefe Citie *Ierusalem* was the Temple of God, first most gloriously built by *Salomon*; and afterward destroyed by *Nebuchadnezzar*. By the commandement of *Cyrus* King of *Persia*, was a second Temple built, much more base then the former. For besides the pouertie, and smalnesse of it, there wanted fve things which were in the former, as the *Iewes* write: First, the Arke of the Covenant: Secondly, the pot of Manna: Thirdly, the Rod of *Aaron*: Fourthly, the two Tables of the Law, written by the finger of God: And fiftly, the fire of the Sacrifice, which



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which came downe from heauen. *Herod* the great, an *Edomite* stranger, hauing gotten the kingdome, contrary to the law of *Moses*, and knowing the people to be offended therewithall, to procure their fauor, did build a third Temple, wherein our Sauour Iesus Christ and his Apostles did teach.

The Citie of *Ierusalem* was twice taken, and vtterly laid desolate, first by *Nebuchadnezzar*, at the Captiuitie of *Babylon*: and secondly after the death of *Christ*, by *Vespasian* the *Romane* (who first began the warres) and by his Sonne *Titus*, who was afterward Emperour of *Rome*: who brought such horrible desolation on that Citie, and the people thereof, by fire, sword, and famine, that the like hath not beene read in any Historie. Hee did afterwards put thousands of them (on some one day) to be deuoured of the beasts, which was a cruell custome of the *Romane* magnificence.

Although Numbers and Times be not superstitiously to be obserued (as many foolish imagine,) yet it is a matter in this place, not vnworthy the noting, which *Iosephus* reporteth in his seauenth booke and tenth chapter *de Bello Iudaico*, that the very same day whereon the Temple was set on fire by the *Babylonians*, was the day whereon the second Temple was set on fire by the *Romanes*, and that was vpon the tenth day of *August*.

After this destruction, the Land of *Iudea*, and the ruins of *Ierusalem*, were possessed by some of the people adioyning, till that about 600. yeares since, the *Sarazens* did inuade it: For the expelling of whom from thence, diuers *Frenchmen* and other Christians, vnder the leading of *Godfrey of Bullen*, did assemble themselves, thinking it a great shame that the holy Land, (as they call it) the Citie of *Ierusalem*, and the place of the Sepulchre of *Christ*, should be in the hands of Infidels.

This *Godfrey* ruled in *Ierusalem* by the name of a Duke:  
but

## Of Syria, and the holy Land.

but his succellours after him, for the space of 87. yeares, called themselves *Kings of Ierusalem*: About which time, *Saladine* (who called himselfe King of *Egypt* and *Asia* the lesse) did winne it from the Christians. For the recouery whereof, *Richard* the first King of *England*, together with the *French* King, and the King of *Sicilia*, did go in person with their Armies to *Ierusalem*; but although they won many things from the Infidels, yet the end was, that the *Sarazens* did retain the *Holy Land*.

*Roger Houenden* in the life of *Henrie* the second, King of *England*, doth giue this memorable note, that at that time when the Citie of *Hierusalem* and *Antioch* were taken out of the hand of the *Pagans*, by the meanes of *Godfrey of Bullen*, and other of his company, the Pope of *Rome* that then was, was called *Urbanus*; the Patriarch of *Ierusalem*, *Heraclius*; and the *Romane* Emperour, *Fredericke*; and at the same time when the said *Ierusalem* was recovered againe by *Saladine*, the Popes name was *Urbanus*, the Patriarch of *Ierusalem* *Heraclius*, and the *Romane* Emperour *Fredericke*.

The whole Countrie and Citie of *Ierusalem*, are now in the dominion of the *Turke*, who notwithstanding for a great tribute doth suffer many *Christians* to abide there.

There are now therefore two or more Monasteries, and Religious houses, where Friers doe abide, and make a good commoditie of shewing the Sepulchre of *Christ* and other Monuments vnto such Christian Pilgrimes as doe vse superstitiously to goe in Pilgrimage to the *Holy Land*.

The King of *Spaine* was wont to call himselfe King of *Ierusalem*.



## Of Arabia.

## Of Arabia.



Ext vnto the *Holy Land*, lyeth the great Country of *Arabia*, hauing on the North-part *Palestina* and *Mesopotamia*: on the East side, the gulph of *Persia*: on the South the maine Ocean of *Indea* or *Ethiopia*: on the West *Egypt*, and the great Bay called *Sinus Arabicus*, or the *Red Sea*.

This Country is diuided into three parts: the North part whereof is called *Arabia Deserta*, the South part which is the greatest, is named *Arabia Fœlix*: and the middle betweene both that (which for the abundance of Rockes and Stones) is called *Arabia Petrea*, or *Petrosa*.

The Desart of *Arabia*, is that place in the which God after the deliuerance of the *Israelites* from *Egypt*, by passing through the Red Sea, did keep his people vnder *Moses* for 40. yeares, because of their rebellion; feeding them in the meane time with *Manna* from heauen; and sometimes with water miraculously drawne out of dry rocks: For the Country hath very little Water, almost no Trees, and is vtterly vnfit for Tillage or Corne.

There are no townes nor inhabitants in all this Desart: in *Arabia Petrosa* are some, but not many.

*Arabia Fœlix* for fruitfulness of ground, and conuenient standing euery way toward the Sea, is one of the best Countries of the World: and the principall cause why it is called *Fœlix*, is for that it yeeldeth many things in abundance, which in other parts of the World are not to be had; as *Frankincense* especially, the most precious Balmes, *Mirrhe*, and many other both Fruits and Spices: & yeeldeth withall store of some precious stones.

When

## Of Arabia.

When *Alexander* the great was young, after the manner of the *Macedonians*, hee was to put Incense vpon an Alter, and powring on great store of Frankincense, one of the Nobility of his Country told him that he was too prodigall of that sweet perfume, and that hee should make spare vntill he had conquered the Land wherein the Frankincense did grow: But when *Alexander* afterward had taken *Arabia*, and had possession thereof, he sent a Ship load of Frankincense to the Noble man, and bad him serue the Gods plentifully, and not offer Incense miserably.

This is that Country wherein *Mahomet* was borne, who being of meane parentage, was brought vp in his youth in the trade of Merchandise; but afterward icyning himselfe with Theeues and Robbers, his life was to rob such Merchants as passed through *Arabia*; and to this purpose hauing gotten together many of his owne Countymen, he had afterward a whole legion or more of the *Romane* souldiers, who being offended with *Heraclius* the *Romane* Emperour, for want of their pay, ioyned themselues to him; so that at length he had a great Army, wherewith he spoiled the Countries adioyning: And this was about the yeare of Christ 600.

To maintaine his credit and authority with his owne men, he fained that he had conference with the *Holy Ghost* at such times as he was troubled with the Falling Sicknes: and accordingly, he ordained a new Religion, consisting partly of *Iewish* ceremonies, and partly of *Christian* Doctrine, and some other things of his owne inuention, that he might inueagle both *Iewes* and *Christians*, and yet by his owne fancie distinguish his owne followers from both.

The Booke of his Religion is called the *Alcoran*. The people which were his Sectaries (whereas indeede they came of *Hagar*, the Handmaide of *Sarah*, *Abrahams*



## Of Arabia.

wife; and therefore should of her be called *Ishmaelites* or *Hagarens*) because they would not seeme to come of a Bond woman, and from him whom they suppose a Bastard, they tearme themselves *Sarazens*, as comming from *Sarah*; they are called by some writers *Arabians* instead of *Sarazens*, their name being drawne from their first Country.

*Mahomet* did take something of his Doctrine both from the *Jewes* and *Christians*: as that there is but one God; that there is a life eternall in another world; and the ten Commandements, which they doe admit and belecue; but from the *Jewes* alone, the false Prophet did borrow diuers things, as that all his Males should be Circumcised; that they should eate no Swines-flesh; that they should oftentimes Bathe, Purge, & wash themselves; which diuers of their people, which are more religious then the ordinary sort, doe five times in the day, and therefore they haue neere vnto their Churches and Houses of Deuotion, diuers Bathes; whereinto when they haue entered and washed themselves, they doe persuade themselves that they are as cleare from sinne, as they were the first day they were borne.

In this Countrey of *Arabia*, standeth a City called *Mecha*, where is the place where *Mahomet* was buried, and in remembrance of him there is builded a great Temple, vnto which the *Turkes* and *Sarazens* doe yearly goe on Pilgrimage, (as some *Christians* doe to the *Holy Land*:) For they account *Mahomet* to be the greatest Prophet that euer came into the world: saying, that there were three great Prophets, *Moses*, *Christ*, and *Mahomet*; and as the doctrine of *Moses* was bettered by *Christ*, so is the doctrine of *Christ* amended by *Mahomet*. In this respect, as we reckon the computation of our yeares from the incarnation of *Christ*, so the *Sarazens* account theirs from the time of *Mahomet*.

## Of Arabia.

The *Turkes*, whose Fame began now about 300. yeares since, haue imbraced the Opinions and Religion of the *Sarazens*, concerning *Mahomet*. Some of our Christians doe report, that *Medina* a Citie, standing three daies iourney from *Mesha*, is the place where *Mahomet* was buried, and that by order from himselfe, his body was put into an Iron Coffin, which being carried into a Temple, the rooffe or vault whereof was made of Adamant, or perhaps of the Loadstone, is attracted vnto the top of the vault, and there hangeth, being supported by nothing. But there is no certainty of this Narration.

This false Prophet (as *Lodouicus Viues*, de veritate Fidei, doth write) being desirous in some sort to imitate *Christ Iesus*, who foretold that he should rise againe within the space of three dayes, did giue out that himselfe should rise againe; but he appointed a large time, that was after 800. yeares; and yet that time also is expired, but we heare no newes of the resurrection of *Mahomet*. As the Diuell hath euer some deuice to blinde the eyes of vnbeleeuers, so he hath suffered it to be reported, and credited among the *Turks*, that as *Moses* did allude to the comming of *Christ*, so *Christ* did foretell somewhat of the appearing of *Mahomet*. Whereupon it is ordinarily receiued among them, that when *Christ*, in Saint *Iohns* Gospell, did say, That although he departed, he would send them a comforter; it was added in the Text, and that shall be *Mahomet*; But that the Christians in malice to them, haue rased out those words.

Their owne Bookes doe mention, that *Mahomet* (while he was liuing) was much giuen to lasciuiousnesse, and all vnclannesse of body, euen with very Beasts: and his followers are so senselesse, that in imitation of him, they thinke no such wickednesse to be vnlawfull. For they are vtterly vnlearned, & must receiue whatsoever is deliuered vnto them out of the *Alcaron*, *Mahomet* hauing made it a



## Of Arabia.

matter of death to dispute, sift, or call in question any thing which is written in his Law.

On the West-side of *Arabia*, between that and *Egypt*, lyeth the gulf called (of the Country *Sinus Arabicus*; by some, *Mare Erythraum*, but commonly the *Red Sea*, not of one *Erythrus* as some suppose, but because the land and bankes thereabout are (in colour) red. This is that Sea, through the which (by *Moses*) the people of *Israel* were led, when they fled out of *Egypt* from *Pharao*; God causing by his power, the waters to stand on both sides of them, that they passed through as on dry land.

This is that Sea, through which the spices of the *East-Indies* were in times past brought to *Alexandria* in *Egypt*, and from thence dispersed into Christendome by the *Venecians*: which spices, and Apothecary drugs are found to be far worse then beforetime they were, by reason of the great moisture which they take on the water, by the reason of the long nauigation of the *Portugales* by the backe part of *Africa*.

This is that Sea, through the which *Salomon* did send for his gold, and other precious marchandise vnto the *East-Indies*, and not to the *West-Indies*, as some lately haue disputed. Whereout the vanitie of that opinion may appeare that *America* and the *West-Indies* were knowne in the time of *Salomon*. For if he had sent thither, his course had been along the *Mediterranean*, and through the Straits of *Gibraltar*, commonly called *Fretum Hercleum*, between *Spaine* and *Barbarie*: But the Scripture telleth, that the Nauy which *Salomon* sent forth, was built at *Ezion-Geber* which is there also said to stand on the *Red Sea*. So his course might be East-ward, or South-ward, and not West-ward.


In the desert of *Arabia* is the Mount *Horeb*, which by some is supposed to be the same that is called the *Mount Sina*, where many think it was that *Abraham* should haue offered

## Of Africke and Egypt.

offered v

his Sonne *Isaac*. But this is certaine, that it was the place where God in the wildernesse did giue vnto the people of *Israel*, his law of the ten Commandements, in thundring, lightning, and earth-quake, in most fearefull manner.

## Of Africke and Egypt.

 From *Arabia* and *Palestina*, toward the West, lyeth *Africke*; hauing on the North-side, from the one end of it to the other, the *Mediterranean Sea*. The greatest part of which Countrey, although it hath beene guessed at by Writers in former time, yet because of the great heat of it, lying for the most part of it vnder the *Zona Torrida*, and for the wildernesSES therein, it was in former time supposed by many, not to be much inhabited: but of certainty by all, to be very little discouered, till the *Portugals* of late began their nauigation on the back-side of *Africa*, to the East-Indies. So exact a description is therefore not to be looked for, as hath beene of *Asia* and *Europe*,

Ioyning to the *Holy Land*, by a little *Istmos*, is the countrie of *Egypt*, which is a land as fruitfull as any almost in the world, although in these daies it doth not answere to the fertility of former times.

This is that which in the time of *Ioseph* did relieue *Canaan* with corne, and the familie of *Isaac* which did so multiply in the land of *Egypt*, that they were growne to a huge multitude, when God by *Moses* did deliuer them thence.

This Countrey did yeelde exceeding abundance of Corne vnto the Citie of *Rome*, whereupon *Egypt*, as well as *Sicilia*, was commonly called *Horreum populi Romani*.



## Of Africke and Egypt.

It is obserued from all antiquity, that almost neuer any raine did fall in the land of *Egypt*. Whereupon the raining with thunder and lightning & fire, running on the ground, was so much more strange when God plagued *Pharaoh*, in the daies of *Moses*: But the flowing of the Riuer *Nilus* ouer all the Country, (their Cities onely, and some few Hills excepted) doth so water the earth, that it bringeth forth fruit abundantly.

The flowing of which Riuer yearely, is one of the greatest miracles of the world, no man being able to yeelde a sufficient and assured reason thereof: although in *Herodotus* and *Diodorus Siculus*, many probable causes and opinions are assigned thereof.

That there doth not vse any raine to fall in *Egypt*, besides other heathen testimonies, and experiences of Trauailers may be gathered out of the Scripture; for in the 10. Chap. of *Deuteronomy*, God doth make an Antithesis betweene the Land of *Canaan*, & *Egypt*, saying that *Egypt* was watered as a man would water a Garden of hearbes, that is to say, by the hand: But they should come into a Land which had hills, and Mountaines, and which was watered with the raine of heauen: and yet some haue written, that euer now and then there is mistes in *Egypt* which yeelde, though not raine, yet a pretty dew.

It is noted of this Riuer, that if in ordinary places it doe flow vnder the height of fiftene cubits, that then for want of moysture, the earth is not fruitfull; and if it doe flow aboue seauenteene Cubits, that there is like to be a dearth, by reason of the abundance of moysture, the water lying longer on the Land then the inhabitants doe desire.

It is most probably coniectured, that the falling and melting of Snow, from those Hills which be called *Luna Montes*, doe make the increase of the riuer *Nilus*. And the custome of the people in the Southerne parts of *Arabia* is that they do receiue into Ponds and Dams, the water that  
doth

## Of Africke and Egypt.

doth hastely fall, and the same they let out with Sluces, some after some, which causeth it orderly to come downe into the plaines of *Egypt*.

For the keeping vp of these Dammes, the Country of *Egypt* hath time out of minde, payd a great tribute to *Prestor Iohn*: which when of late it was denied by the *Turke*, *Prestor Iohn* caused all the Sluces to be letten goe on the sodaine, whereby he marueilously annoyed, and drowned vp a great part of the Country of *Egypt*.

In *Egypt* learning hath been very ancient, but especially the knowledge of Astronomie and Mathematickes; whereof before the time of *Tullie*, their Priests would report, that they had the discent of 1500. yeares exactly recorded, with obseruations Astrologicall; which as it is a fable, vnlesse they do reckon their yeares by the Moone (as some suppose they did, euery Moneth for a yeare) so it doth argue knowledge to haue beene among them very ancient.

Their Priests had among them a kinde of writing, and describing of things by picture, which they did call their *Hieroglyphica*.

This in times past was a kingdome, and by the Kings thereof were built those great *Pyramides* which were held to be one of the seuen wonders of the world, being mighty huge buildings, erected of exceeding height, for to shew the magnificence of their founders.

There is part of two or three of them remaining vnto this day.

Diuers learned men are at this day of opinion, that when the Children of *Israel* were in *Egypt*, and so oppressed by *Pharaoh*, as is mentioned in the beginning of the booke of *Exodus*, that their labour in burning of bricke was partly imployed to the erecting of some of those *Pyramides*; but the Scripture doth onely mention walling of Cities.



## Of Africke and Egypt.

The Founders of these *Pyramides*, were commonly buried, in, or vnder them: and it is not vnfit to remember, that the Kings, and great men of *Egypt*, had much cost bestowed vpon them after they were dead.

For in as much as *Arabia* was neere vnto them, whence they had most precious Balmes, and other costly Spices, they did with charge embalm their dead, and that with such curious art, that the flesh thereof and the skinne, would remaine vnpurified for diuers hundred yeares: and all learned men thinke, thousands of yeares: Whereof experiments are plentiful at this day, by the whole bodies, hands, or other parts, which by Merchants are now brought from thence, and doth make the *Mumia*, which the Apothecaries vse: the colour being very blacke, and the flesh clung vnto the bones.

*Moses* doth speake of this, when hee saith, that *Iacob* was embalmed by the Phisitians, after the manner of embalming of the *Egyptians*. But this manner of embalming is ceased long since in *Egypt*.

In *Egypt* did stand the great City *Memphis*, which at this day is called *Caire*, one of the famous Cities of the East.

Here did *Alexander* build that City which vnto this day is of his name, called *Alexandria*: being now the greatest City of Merchandise in all *Egypt*: of which *Amianus Marcellinus* doth obserue, that there was neuer any, or almost hath euer beene, but that once in the day the Sunne hath beene seene to shine ouer *Alexandria*. This City was one of the foure Patriarchall Seas, which were appointed in the first *Nicene* Councell.

This Country was gouerned by a King, as long a goe as almost any Country in the world. Here raigned *Amafis*, whomade those good lawes spoken of by *Herodotus*, and *Diodorus Siculus*: in whose writings, the auncient customes of the *Egyptians* are worthy to be read.

After *Alexanders* time, *Ptolomens* one of his Captaines had

## Of Africke and Egypt.

had his kingdome, of whom all his successors were called *Ptolemeis*, as before time all their Kings were called *Pharaoh*; they continued long friends and in league with the people of *Rome*, till the time of *Julius Caesar*; but afterward they were as subjects to the *Romanes*, till the Empire did decay.

When they had withdrawne themselves from the *Roman* government, they set vp a Prince of their owne: whom they termed the *Sultan* or *Souldan* of *Egypt*; of whom, about 400. years since, *Saladine* was one. But when the race of these was out, the *Mamelukes* (who were the guard of the *Sultaine* as the *Ianifaries* be to the *Turke*) appointed a Prince at their pleasure; till that now, about an 100. yeares agoe, or lesse, the *Turke Selimus* possessed himselfe with the sole government of the Country: so that at this day *Egypt* is wholly vnder the *Turke*.

There be Christians that now liue in *Egypt* paying their tribute vnto the *Turke*, as others doe now also in *Gracia*.

*Aeneas Siluius* doth report in his History, *De mundo vniuerso*, Cap. 60. that diuers did goe about to dig through that little *Isthmos* or Straite which at the top of the Red Sea doth ioyne *Egypt* to some part either of *Arabia*, or of the *Holy Land*; imagining the labour not to be great, in as much as they conceived the space of ground to be no more then 1500. furlongs. *Sesostris* the King of *Egypt* (as he saith) did first attempt this. Secondly *Darius*, the great Monarke of the *Persians*. Thirdly *Ptolemy*, one of the Kings of *Egypt*, who drew a ditch a 100. foote broad, 30. foote deepe, and 37. Miles and a halfe long; but when he intended to goe forward, he was forced to cease, for feare of inundation, and ouerflowing the whole land of *Egypt*; the Red Sea being found to be higher (by three Cubites) then the ordinary plaine of *Egypt* was. But *Plinie* affirmeth, that the digging was giuen ouer,



## Of Cyrene and Africke the lesse.

lest the Sea being let in, should marre the water of *Nilus*, which alone doth yeelde drinke to the *Egyptians*.

*Pet. Maffeus* in his *Indian* storie, doth tell, that there was a *Portugall* also, that of late yeares, had a conceit to haue had this work finished, that so he might haue made the third part of the old knowne world *Africa*, to haue beene an Iland compassed round with the Sea.

Men commonly in the description of *Egypt*, doe report that whole Country to stand in *Africke*; but if wee will speake exactly, and repute *Nilus* to be the bound betwene *Asia* and *Africke*, we must then acknowledge that the Easterne part of *Egypt*, from *Nilus* and so forward to the Red Sea, doth lye in *Asia*; which is obserued by *Peter Martyr*, in that pretty Treatise of his *De legatione Babilonica*.

Although this Country of *Egypt* doth stand in the selfe same Climate that *Mauritania* doth, yet the inhabitants there are not blacke, but rather dunne, or tawnie. Of which colour *Cleopatra* was obserued to be; who by intisement, so wonne the loue of *Iulius Caesar* and *Antonie*: And of that colour doe those runnagats (by deuises make themselves to be) who goe vp and downe the world vnder the name of *Egyptians*, being indeed, but counterfets and the refuse or rascality of many nations.

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## Of Cyrene and Africke the lesse.



IN the West-side of *Egypt*, lying along the *Mediterranean*, is a Country which was called in olde time *Cyrene*; wherein did stand that Oracle which was so famous in the time of *Alexander* the great, called by the name of the Temple or Oracle of *Iupiter Hammon*, whither when *Alexander* did

## Of Cyrene and Africke the lesse.

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for himselfe and his company (and all other prouision)  
on Cammels backes.

At this day, this Countrey hath lost his olde name,  
and is reckoned as a part of *Egypt*, and lieth vnder the  
*Turke*.

In dry Countries as in *Africa*, and the wilderness of  
*Arabia*, they haue much vse of Cammels. First, because  
they can carry a huge burthen of water and other proui-  
sion: Secondly, because that themselves will goe a long  
time without drinke, traouailing (as *Solinus* writeth) foure  
daies together without it; but then drinking excesssiuely,  
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thirdly, because that in an extremity, those that trauell with  
them doe let them bloud in a vaine, and sucke out the  
blood; wherby as the owner is much relieued, so the Cam-  
mell is little the worse.

Westward from this Country, along the *Mediterranean*,  
lieth that which in auncient time was called *Africa minor*:  
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## Of Mauritania Cæsariensi.

In this Country did stand that place so famous, mentioned by *Salust*, vnder the name of *Phillenorum ara*: which was the bound in that time, betweene *Africke* and *Cyrene*.

On the North and East part hereof, in the Sea neere vnto the shore, was that *Quick-land*, which in times past did destroy so many Ships, and was called *Syrtis magna*: as also on the North and West part, was the other Sand, called *Syrtis parua*. Some part of this Country, was heretofore vnder the *Sultan* of *Egypt*, whose dominion did extend it selfe so farre to the west, and there was diuided from the Kingdome of *Tunis*: but it is now wholly vnder the *Turke*, and is commonly reputed as a part of *Barbary*. For now, by a general name, from the confines of *Cyrene* vnto the West, as far as *Hercules* pillers, is called *Barbary*; though it containe in it diuers Kingdomes, as *Tunis*, *Fessa*, and *Morocco*.

## Of Mauritania Cæsariensi.



Part of that Country, which by a generall name is called at this day *Barbarie*; hath in old time beene called *Mauritania*, which was diuided into two parts: the East part whereof next to *Africa minor*, was called by the *Romanes*, *Mauritania Cæsariensis*, as the other was called *Mauritania Tingitana*. In *Mauritania Cæsariensi* was the Countrie of *Numidia*, the people whereof were vsed in the warres of the *Carthagenians*, as *Light-horsemen*; and for all nimble seruices were very actiue.

In the East-part of this Country standing in the Sea, was that famous Citie of *Carthage*, supposed to be built by *Dido*, who came from *Tyrus*.

This City was it, which for the space of some hundreth years, contended with *Rome*, for the Empire of the world.

In

## Of Mauritania Cesariensi.

In the *Romane* Histories are recorded their great warres which the people of *Rome* had with the citie of *Carthage*.

In the first yeare of the three, the contention was for the Iles of *Cicilia*, *Corfica*, and *Sardinia*; when, the victory fell to the *Romans*, and the *Carthagenians* were glad to redeeme their peace with the leauing of those Ilands.

The second warre was begun by *Hannibal*, who brake the league, and after he had taken some part of *Spain* from the *Romanes* and sacked *Saguntum*, a citie of their friends, came first ouer the *Pyrenay* hills to *France*, then ouer the *Alpes* to *Italie*, where he ouerthrew the *Romanes* in three great battels, and much endangered their estate; he continued in *Italie* with his Army sixteene yeares, till *Scipio* attempting on *Carthage*, forced *Hannibal* to returne to rescue his owne Countrey. There was *Hannibal* overthrowne, and his City put to a great pension by *Scipio*, who for his victory there, was named *Africanus*.

In the third warre (because the people of *Carthage* still brake the league) their City was razed to the very ground by the earnest and continuall counsell of *Cato* the Elder, fearing evermore so dangerous a neighbor, though *Scipio Nasica* counsailed to the contrary; fearing least if the dread of that enemy were taken away, the *Romans* would grow either to idlenesse, or ciuill dissention; which after they did. It is reported of *Cato*, that he neuer spake his iudgement of any thing in the Senate, but his conclusion was thus: Thus I thinke for this matter, and withall that *Carthage* is to be raised downe. And *Scipio Nasica* would reply in his conclusion: Thus I thinke of this matter, and withall that *Carthage* is not to be raised downe.

*Liue* reporteth, that the way whereby *Cato* preuailed that *Carthage* should be razed downe, was this; while the question was very hot, he bringeth into the Senate house greene Figs, & let the Senators vnderstand, that the same day three weekes, those Figs were growing in *Carthage* towne:



## Of Mauritania Tingitana.

towne: whereby he made manifest vnto them, that it was possible that an Army might be conueighed from *Carthage* to *Rome* in so short a time as that they would not be able (on the sodaine) to resist, and so *Rome* might be surprised: whereby they all concluded, that it was no safety for their City to haue a bad neighbor so neare vnto them.

In this Country toward the West, not farre from *Carthage* stood *Vtica*; whereof the yonger *Cato* was tearmed *Cato Vticensis*, because he killed himselfe there in the ciuill warres betwixt *Cesar* and *Pompey*, because he would not come within the hands of his enemy *Cesar*.

Not farre from thence West-ward, standeth *Hippon*, which was the Citie where *S. Augustine* was Bishop.

This whole Country (at this day) is called the kingdome of *Tunis*; the King whereof, is a kinde of stipendary vnto the *Turke*: the people that inhabit there are generally *Sarazens*, and doe professe *Mahomet*.

Some doe write that *Tunis* standeth in the very place where old *Carthage* was; which is not so, but is scituated very neere vnto the old ruines of the other. Against the King of *Tunis*, *Charles* the first had some of his warres by Sea.

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## Of Mauritania Tingitana.



He other part of *Barbarie* that lieth along the *Mediterranean*, farthest into the West, was called in old time *Mauritania Tingitana*. The people of which Country were those which almost in all the old Histories were called by the name of *Mauri*: Those of the other *Mauritania* being rather termed *Numide*.

Into the Northwest part hereof did *Hercules* come, and there

## Of Mauritania Caesariensi.

there did set vp one of his Pillars, which answereth to the other in *Spaine*, they both being at the Straites of *Gibraltar*, in times past called *Fretum Herculeum*. On the South-part hereof lay the Kingdome of *Bocchus*, which in the time of *Marius* had so much to doe with the *Romanes*. In the West part of this *Mauritania*, standeth the Hill called *Atlas-minor*; and on the South part, is the great Hill called *Atlas-maior*; whereof the maine Ocean which lieth betweene *Mauritania* and *America*, is called *Mare Atlanticum*. This Hill is so high, that vnto those who stood on the bottome of it, it seemed to touch heauen with his shoulders.

This Country hath beene long inhabited by the *Sarazens*; who from thence finding it to be but a short passage into *Spaine*, did goe ouer (now 700. yeares agoe) and possessed there the Kingdome of *Granado*, on the South-side of *Spaine*, till they were thence expelled by *Ferdinandus* and *Elizabeth* or *Isabell* King and Queene of *Castile*. In this Country since that time, haue the *Spaniards* taken some Cities and Holdes; and so also haue the *Portugales*; which by the diuers euent of victorie, haue often bin lost and wonne by them.

Here it was that the Emperour *Charles* the fir, had diuers of his great wars against the *Moores*, as well as in the kingdome of *Tunis*. For the assistance of one, who clamed to be King of a part of this country, did *Sebastian* the King of *Portugale* goe withall his power into *Africa*, in the yeare 1578. where vnadvisedly bearing himselfe, he was slaine, together with two other, the same day, who claimed to be Kings: so that there it was that the battaile was fought, whereof it was said, that three Kings dyed in one day: which battell is called the battell of *Alcazar*, and was the ruine of the kingdome of *Portugale*, and the cause of the vnting it to the Crowne of *Spaine*. Astrologers did suppose that the blazing Starre which appeared the yeare

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before,



## Of Mauritania Tingitana.

before, did signifie that ill cuent.

This whole Country doth maintaine in it, besides some Imperiall gouernment, two absolute Kingdomes: the one of *Fezza* or *Fez*, which lieth on the North part toward the *Mediterranean* and *Spaine*: the other is the Kingdome of *Morocco*, which lieth from aboue the Hill *Atlas minor*, to the South and West part of *Mauritania*. These are both *Sarazens*, as be also their people; holding true league with the *Turke*, and with some other Christian Princes; a league onely for traffique and merchandise.

It may be doubted whether it was in this *Mauritania Tingitana*, or rather but neere vnto it, in *Mauritania Casariensis*, that which *S. Augustine* in his Booke *De doctrina Christiana*, doth of his owne knowledge report, that in a City of that country was this brutish custome, that once in the yeare (for certaine dayes) the inhabitants of the place did assemble themselves into wide and large fields, and there diuided themselves each from other, so that perhaps the fathers were on one side, & the children or brothers on the other; & did throw stones with such violence that many were hurt, and diuers killed with the furie of that assault.

But *S. Austin* telleth, that he detesting the brutishnesse therof, did make a most eloquent and elaborate Oration or Sermon vnto them: wherby he did preuaile with those of the City where he was, that they gaue over that foolish and rude exercise: Yet *Leo Africanus*, who liued about a hundred yeares since, and in his owne person trauailed ouer the greatest part of *Africke*, doth write in his description of *Africke*, that in one place of the kingdome of *Fez*, the like barbarous custome is yet retained.

*Of the other Countries of Africke.*

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*Of the other Countries of Africke,  
lying neere the Sea.*



From beyond the Hill *Atlas-maior*, vnto the South of *Africke*, is nothing almost (in antiquitie) worthy the reading: and those things which are written (for the most part) are fables: For towards the South-part of *Africke*, as well as towards the North-parts of *Europe* and *Asia*, be supposed to be men of strange shapes, as some with Dogs heads, some without heads, and some with one foote alone, which was very huge, and such like, which that counterfaite *Frier* (who writ that Booke which is counted *S. Augustin ad fratres in Eremito*: and who would gladly father vpon *S. Augustine* the erecting of the *Augustine Friars*) doth say, that he saw traouailing downe from *Hippon* South-ward in *Africa*: But as the *Asse*, in *Aesope*, which was cloathed in the Lyons skin, did by his long eares shew himselfe to be an *Asse*, and not a *Lion*: So this foolish fellow, by his lying, doth shew himselfe to be a counterfaite, and not *S. Augustine*.

In the new writers there are some few things to be obserued: as first, that all the people in generall to the South, lying within the *Zona torrida* are not onely blackish, like the *Moors*, but are exceeding blacke. And therefore as in old time, by an excellency, some of them are called *Nigritæ*, so at this day they are named *Negros*, as then whom no men are blacker.

Secondly, the inhabitants of all these parts which border on the Sea-coast, euen vnto *Caput bone spei*, haue been Gentiles, adoring Images & foolish shapes for their Gods,



## Of the other Countries of Africke.

neither hearing of Christ, nor beleeuing on *Mahomet*, till such time as the *Portugals* comming among them, haue professed Christ for themselves, but haue won few of the people to imbrace their religion.

Thirdly, that the *Portugales* passing along *Africa* to the *East-Indies*, haue settled themselves in many places of those Countries, building Castles and Townes for their owne safetie, and to keepe the people in subiection, to their great commoditie.

One of the first Countries famous beyond *Morocco*, is *Guinea*, which we call *Ginnie*, within the compasse, whereof, lyeth the *Cape*, called the *Cape Verde*, and the other, the *Cape* of the three points: and the Towne and Castle named *Sierra Lioa*, at which place (as commonly all Trauailers doe touch, that doe passe that way for fresh water, and other ship prouision) our *Englishmen* haue found traffique into the parts of this Country, where their greatest commoditie is Gold, and Elephants teeth; of both which there is good store.

Beyond that, toward the South, not farre from the *Equinoctiall*, lyeth the Kingdome of *Congo*, commonly called *Mani-congo*. Where the *Portugals* at their first arriuall finding the people to be Heathens, without God, did induce them to a profession of *Christ*, and to be baptized in great abundance, allowing of the principles of Religion, vntill such time as the Priest did teach them to lead their liues according to their profession; which the most part of them in no case enduring, they returned back again to their Gentilisme.

Beyond *Mani-congo* so farre to the South as almost ten degrees beyond the Tropick of *Capricorne*, lieth the lands end; which is a Promontorie, now called *Caput bone spei*, which *Vascius Gama* the Portugall did discouer, and so called it, because he had there good hope that the Land did turne to the North; and that following the course thereof  
hee

## Of the other Countries of Africke.

hee might be brought to *Arabia* and *Persia*, but especially to *Calecut* in *India*. Which course, when himselfe, and other of his country-men after him did follow, they found on the coast v<sup>p</sup> towards *Arabia*, the Kingdome of *Mosambique*, *Melinda*, *Magadazo*, and other; whose people were all *Gentiles*, and now are in league with the *Portugales*, who haue built diuers Holds for their safety. Of which Countries, and manners of the people, he that listeth to read, may finde much in the History of *Oserius*, and *Petrus Maffens*; but there is no matter of any great importance.

Beyond the Cape towards the North, before you come to *Mosambique*, betweene the riuers of *Cuama* and *Sancto Spirito*, lies the Kingdome of *Monomotapa*, where the *Portugals* also haue arriued, and so much was donethere by the preaching of *Gonsaluo de Sylua*, a *Iesuite*, that the King and Queene of that Country with many others, were conuerted from *Gentilisme* to *Christianity* and baptized: But certaine *Mahometanes* incensing the King thereof afterwards against the *Portugals*, made him to reuolt from his religion, and to put to death this *Iesuite* and diuers others: which fact of his, the *Portugals* assaying to reuenge with an army sent for out of *Portugall*, they profited little against him, but were themselves consumed by the discommodities of the Country, and the distemperature of the ayre.

There are also other Kingdomes in this part of *Africke*, of whom wee know little besides their names and site in generall, as *Adel*, *Monomugi*, *Angola*, and therefore it shall be sufficient to haue named them in a word.



## Of Abissines, and Prester Iohn.

### Of Abissines, and the Empire of Prester Iohn.



IN the In-land of *Africke*, lyeth a very large Country, extending it selfe on the East to some part of the Red Sea, on the South to the Kingdome of *Melinda*, and a great way farther; on the North to *Egypt*; on the West to *Manicongo*. The people whereof are called *Abissini*; and it selfe the dominion of him, whom wee commonly call in English *Prester Iohn*; but in Latine some tearme him *Pretiosus Iohannes*, but the most part *Presbiter Iohannes*, writing of him. As hee is a Prince absolute, so he hath also a Priest-like, or Patriarchall function and iurisdiction among them. This is a very mighty Prince, and reputed to be one of the greatest Emperours in the world.

What was knowne of this country in former time, was knowne vnder the name of *Ethiopia*; but the voyages of the *Portugales* in these late dayes haue best described it. The people thereof are Christians, as is also their Prince; but differing in many things from the West Church; and in no sort acknowledging any supreme prerogative of the Bishop of *Rome*. It is thought that they haue retained Christianity, euen from the time of our Sauour, being supposed to be conuerted by the Chamberlaine of *Candace* the Queene of *Ethiopia*, who was instructed concerning *Christ*, by *Philip* the Euangelist in the *Acts* of the Apostles. *Eusebius* in his Ecclesiasticall story doth make mention of this. But they doe to this day retaine Circumcision: whereof the reason may be, that the *Eunuch* (their Conuerter) not hauing any further conference with

## Of *Abissines*, and *Prestor Iohn*.

with the Apostle, nor any else with him, did receiue the ceremonies of the Church imperfectly, retayning Circumcision : which among the *Iewes* was not abolished when he had conference with *Philip*.

Within the dominion of *Prestor Iohn*, are the mountains commonly called *Luna Montes* : where is the first well-spring and arising of the riuer *Nilus*. Yet there are that fetch the head of this riuer out of a certaine great Lake towards the South, called *Zembre* : out of which toward the West runs the riuer of *Zaire*, into the Kingdome of *Manicongo*. The riuer of *Zuama* or *Cuama*, towards the South, to the Kingdome of *Monmotapa* or *Benomotapa*, as this riuer *Nilus* towards the North, through the Kingdome of the *Abissines* to *Egypt*, which riuer running violently along this Country, and sometimes hastily increasing by the melting of much Snow from the Mountaines, would ouer-runne and drowne a great part of *Egypt*, but that it is slaked by many Ponds, Dams, and Sluces, which are within the dominion of *Prestor Iohn*. And in respect hereof, for the maintenance of these, the Princes of *Egypt* haue paid vnto the gouernour of the *Abissines* a great tribute time out of minde : which of late the great *Turke* supposing it to be a custome needelesse, did deny; till the people of the *Abissines* by commaundement of their Prince, did breake downe their Dams, and drowning *Egypt* did enforce the *Turke* to continue his pay, and to giue much money for the new making of them, very earnestly, to his great charge, desiring a peace.

In this Country also of *Prestor Iohn*, is the rising of the famous riuer *Niger*, supposed to haue in it the most and the best precious stones of any riuer in the world, which arising likewise out of a great Lake out of that Mount, after it hath runne a good space hideth it selfe for the space of 60. miles vnder ground, then appearing againe.



## Of the Northerne Ilands.

agaïne after it hath runne somewhat further makes a great Lake, and agaïne after a great tract another, and at last after a long course falls at *Cape Verde* into the *Atlantique Sea*.

*Ortelius* in his larger Mappes, describes it falling into the Sea, like *Nilus* in *Egypt*, with seauen streames, or *Ostia*: but those that trauell these parts say that there are onely some Bayes, but there is no riuer in those parts running into the Sea but *Senega*.

There be other Countries in *Africke*, as *Agisimba*, *Libia interior*, *Nubia*, and others, of whom nothing is famous: but this may be said of *Africke* in generall, that it bringeth forth store of all sorts of wilde Beasts, as Elephants, Lyons, Panthers Tygers, and the like: yea, according to the proverbe, *Africa semper aliquid apportat noui*. Oft times new and strange shapes of wilde Beastes are brought forth there; the reason whereof is, that the country being hot and full of Wilderneses, which haue in them little water, the Beastes of all sorts being inforced to meete at those few watering places that be, where oftentimes contrary kindes haue coniunction the one with the other: so that there ariseth new kinde of species which taketh part of both; Such a one is the Leopard, begotten of the Lyon and the beast called *Pardus*, and somewhat resembling either of them. And thus farre of *Africke*.

## Of the Northerne Ilands.



He Ilands that doe lie in the North, are in number almost infinite: the chiefe of them onely shall be briefly touched. Very farre to the North in the same Climate almost with *Sweden*, that is, vnder the circle *Articke*, lieth an Iland called

## Of the Northerne Ilands.

called in old time *Thule*, which was then supposed to be the farthest part of the world Northward, and therefore is called by *Virgil*, *Vltima Thule*. The Country is cold, the People barbarous, and yeeldeth little commodity sauing Haukes. In some part of the yeare there is no night at all.

Vnto this Land diuers of our English nation doe yearely trauell, and doe bring from thence good store of Fish; but especially our deepest and thickest Ling, which are therefore called Island Lings. It hath pleased God, that in these latter times, the Gospell is there preached and the people are instructed in Christianity, hauing also the knowledge of good learning, which is brought about by the meanes of the King of *Sweden*; vnto whom that Iland is now subiect.

There is lately written by one of that nation, a pritty Treatise in Latin, which describeth the manner of that Country; and it is to be scene in the first *Tome of Master Hackluytes Voyages*.

Southward from thence, lyeth *Frizeland*, called in Latine *Frizlandia*; whereas the *Frizland* ioyning to *Germanie*, is in Latine called *Frizia*.

On the coast of *Germanie* one of the seauenteene Provinces, is called *Zeland*, which containeth in it diuers Ilands; in whom little is famous, sauing that in one of them is *Flisben* or *Flusben*, a towne of warre; and *Middleburge* is another, a place of good Mart.

*Leuius Lemnius*, and some of the low *Germanes*, be of opinion, that this City first was built by *Metellus* the *Romane*; and that which now is called *Middleburge*, was at the first tearmed *Metells Burgum*.

The States of the low Countries, doe hold this Prouince against the King of *Spaine*. These Ilands haue beene much troubled of late with inundation of water.

The Iland that lyeth most West of any fame, is *Ireland*,

N

which



## Of the Northerne Ilands.

which had in it heretofore many Kings of their owne; but the whole land is now annexed to the Crowne of England. The people naturally are rude and superstitious: the Country good and fruitfull, but that for want of tillage in diuers places, they suffer it to grow into Bogs and deserts. It is true of this Country (which *Solinus* writeth of some other) that Serpents and Adders doe not breede there, and in the *Irish* Timber, of certaine experience, no spiders web is euer found.

The most renowned Iland in the world is *Albion*, or *Britania*, which hath heretofore contained in it many seuerall Kingdomes; but especially in the time of the *Saxons*. It hath now in it two Kingdomes, *England* and *Scotland*, wherein are foure seuerall Languages; that is, the *English* (which the ciuill *Scots* doe barbarously speake) the *Welsh-tongue* (which is the Language of the old *Britaines*) the *Cornish* (which is the proper speech of *Cornewall*) and the *Irish* (which is spoken by those *Scots* which liue on the West part of *Scotland*, neere vnto *Ireland*. The commodities and pleasures of *England* are well knowne vnto vs, and many of them are exprest in this verse:

*Anglia, Mons, Pons, Fons, Ecclesia, Fœmina, Lana.*

*England is stor'd with Bridges, Hills, and Wooll;  
With Churches, Wells, and Women beautifull.*

The auncient inhabitants of this Land were the *Britaines*, which were afterward driuen into a corner of the Countrie, now called *Wales*; and it is not to be doubted, but at the first this Countrie was peopled from the Continent of *France*, or thereabout, when the sonnes of *Noah* had spread themselues from the East to the West part of the World. It is not strange to see why the people of that Nation doe labour to fetch their pedegree from one *Brutus*, whom they report to come from *Troy*; because the originall

## Of the Northerne Islands.

originall of that truth began by *Galfridus Monumetensis*, aboute 500. yeares agone, and his Booke containeth great shew of trueth, but was noted by *Nubringensis* or some Author of his time, to be meereley fabulous: Besides that, many of our *English* nation haue taxed the saying of them who would attribute the name of *Britannia* vnto *Brutus*, and *Cornubia* to *Coryneus*. *Aeneas Sylvius*. Epist. 1. 3. hath thought good to confirme it, saying; The *English* people (saith he) doe report, that after *Troy* was ouerthrowne, one *Brutus* came vnto them, from whom their Kings doe fetch their Pedegrees; which matter there are no more Historians that deliuer, besides a certaine *English* man, which had some learning in him, who willing to equall the blood of those Islanders vnto the *Romane* stocke and generositie, did affirme and say that concerning *Brutus*, which *Linie* and *Salust* (being both deceiued) did report of *Aeneas*.

We doe finde in auncient Records and Stories of this Iland, that since the first possessions which the *Britaines* had here, it was overrunne, and conquered fve seuerall times. The *Romanes* were the first that did attempt vpon it, vnder the conduct of *Iulius Cesar*, who did onely discover it, and frighted the inhabitants with the name of the *Romanes*, but was not able so farre to preuaile vpon it, as any way to possesse it: yet his successours afterwards did by litle and litle, so gaine on the Country, that they had almost all of it; which is now called *England*; and did make a great Ditch or Trench from the East to the West Sea, betweene their dominion here, and *Scotland*. Diuers of the Emperours were here in person, as *Alexander*, *Seuerus*, who is reputed to be buried at *Yorke*. Here also was *Constantius*, father vnto *Constantine* the great; who from hence married *Helena* a woman of this Land, who was afterward mother to the renowned *Constantine*. But when the *Romanes* had their Empire much weakened, partly by



## Of the Northerne Ilands.

their owne discords, and partly by that decay which the irruptions of the *Gothes* and *Vandales*, and such like inuaders did bring vpon them, they were forced to retire their Legions from thence, and so leauing the Country naked; the *Scots*, and certaine people called the *Pictes*, did breake in, who most miserably wasted and spoyled the Countrey. Then were the inhabitants (as some of our Authors write) put to that choyse, that either they must stand it out and be slaine, or giue ground, till they came to the Sea, and so be drowned.

Of these *Pictes*, who were the second ouerrunners of this Land; some doe write, that they did vse ~~to~~ cut and pounse their flesh, and lay on colours, which<sup>n</sup> did make them the more terrible to be seene with the cuts of their flesh. But certaine it is, that they had their name for painting themselves, which was a common thing in *Britaine* in *Casars* time, as he reporteth in his Commentaries, the men colouring their faces with Glastone or Ode, that they might seeme the more dreadfull, when they were to ioyne Battaille.

To meete with the cruelty and oppression of these Barbarz, the *Saxons* were in the third place by some of the Land called in, who finding the sweetenesse of the soyle, and commodiousnesse of the Countrey euery way, did repaire hither by great troupes, and so seated themselves here, that there were at once of them seauen seuerall Kingdomes and Kings within the compasse of *England*.

These *Saxons* did beare themselves with much more temperance and placabilitie towards those few of the Countrey that remained, then the *Pictes* had done: but yet growing to contention, one of their Kings with another, partly about the bounds of their territories, and partly about other quarrels, they had many great battels each with other.

In

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In the time of these, Religion and Deuotion was much embraced, and diuers Monestaries, and rich Religious houses were founded by them, partly for pennance which they would doe, and partly otherwise; because they thought it to be meritorious: in so much that King *Edgar* alone, is recorded to haue built about foure seuerall Monestaries. And some other of their Kings were in their ignorance so deuoted, that they gaue over their Crownes, and in superstition did goe to *Rome*, there to leade the liues of priuate men.

These seauen Kingdomes in the end, did grow all into one; and when the fourth and most grieuous scourge and conquest of this Kingdome came in, the *Danes*; who lording it here diuers yeares, were at last expelled; and then *William* Duke of *Normandy*, pretending that he had right thereunto by the promise of adoption, or some other conueyance from *Harald*, did with his *Normans* passe over into this Land, and obtained a great victorie in *Sussex*, at a place which he caused in remembrance thereof to be called *Battell*, and built an Abby there, by the name of *Battell Abby*. He tooke on him to winne the whole by conquest, and did beare himselfe indeede like a Conquerour: For he seased all into his hands, gaue out Barons, Lordships, and Mannours from himselfe; reuerfed the former Lawes and Customes, and instituted here the manners and orders of his owne Countrey; which haue proceeded on, and bin by little and little bettered; so that the honourable gouernment is established, which we now see at this day.

It is supposed, that the faith of *Christ* was first brought into this Land in the dayes of the Apostles, by *Ioseph* of *Arimathaea*, *Simon Zelotes*, and some other of that time: but without doubt not long after it was found here; which appeareth by the testimony of *Tertullianus*, who liued within lesse then 200. yeares after *Christ*: And there are



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records to shew, that in the dayes of *Eleutherius*, one of the auncient Bishops of *Rome*, King *Lucius* receiued here both Baptisme and the Gospell: in so much that it is fabulous vanitie to say, that *Austin* the Monke was the first that here planted the Christian faith: For he liued 600. yeares after Christ, in the time of *Gregory* the great, Bishop of *Rome*: Before which time, *Gildas* is (vpon great reason) thought to haue liued here; of whom there is no doubt, but that he was a learned Christian: Yea, and that may be perceiued by that which *Beda* hath in his ecclesiasticall storie concerning the comming in of *Austin* the Monke, that the Christian religion had bin planted here before, but that the puritie of it in many places was much decayed, and also that many people in the Iland were yet Infidels: For the conuersion of whom, as also for the reforming of the other, *Austin* was sent hither, where he behaued himselfe so proudly, that the best of the Christians which were here did mislike him. In him was erected the Archbishopricke of *Canterbury*, which amongst old writers is still termed *Dorebernia*, the Archbishops doe reckon their succession by number, from this *Austin*.

The reason wherefore *Gregorie* the great, is reported to haue such care for the conuersion of the *Ethnicks* in *Britaine*, was because certaine yong Boyes was brought him out of this Countrey; which being very goodly of countenance (as our country children are therein inferior to no nation in the world) he asked them what countrie-men they were; and when it was replied that they were *Angli*, hee said they were not vnsitly so called, for they were *Angli tanquam Angeli, Nam vultum habent Angelorum*. And demanding further, of what prouince they were in this Iland; it was returned, that they were called *Deires*, which caused him againe to repeat that word, and to say, that it was great pitie, but that by being taught the Gospell they should be saued *de ira Dei*.

England

## Of the Northerne Islands.

England hath since the time of the Conquest, growne more and more in riches, insomuch that now more then 300. yeares since, in the time of King *Henrie* the third, it was an ordinarie speech, that for Wealth, this Country was *Potens inexhaustus*, a well that could neuer be drawne dry. Which conceit the King himselfe, as *Mathew Paris* writeth, did often suggest vnto the *Pope*: who thereupon tooke aduantage, abusing the simplicitie of the King, to sucke out inestimable summes of money, to the intollerable grievance of both the Clergy and Temporaltie. And among other things, to bring about his purpose, the *Pope* did perswade the King, that hee would inuest his young Sonne in the kingdome of *Apulia*; which did containe a great part of all *Naples*; and for that purpose had from thence many thoulands, besides infinite summes which the King was forced to pay for interest to the *Popes Italian vsurers*.

Since that time it hath pleased God more and more to blesse this Land, but neuer more plentifully then in the daies of our late, and now reigning soueraigne, whose raigne continuing long in peace, hath peopled the Land with abundance of inhabitants; hath stored it with Shipping, Armour, and Munition; hath fortified it many waies; hath increased the traffique with the *Turke* and *Muscouite*, & many parts of the earth far distant from vs; hath much bettered it with building and enriched it with Gold and Siluer, that it is now (by wise men) supposed that there is more Plate within the Kingdome then there was Siluer when her Maiesty came to the Crowne. Some writers of former time, yea, and those of our owne Countrie to, haue reported that in England haue bin Mynes of Gold, or at the least some golde taken out of other mynes, which report hath in it no credite, in as much as the country standeth too cold, neither hath it sufficient force of the Sunne to concoct and digest that mettall.

But.



## Of the Northerne Ilands.

But truth it is that our Chronicles do witnesse, that some Silver hath beene taken vp in the Southerne parts, as in the Tyn mynes of *Deuonshire* and *Cornewall*, and such is sometimes found now: but the vertue thereof is so thin, that by that time it is tryed and perfectly fined, it doth hardly quit the cost: notwithstanding, Lead, Iron, and such baser mettals be here in good plentie.

The same reason, which hindreth gold-ore from being in these parts, that is to say, the colde of the climate, doth also hinder that there is no wine, whose grapes grow here. For although we haue Grapes, which in the hotter and warme Sommers doe proue good; but yet many times are nipped with the frost before they be ripe, yet notwithstanding they neuer come to that concocted maturity as to make sweet and pleasant wine: yet some haue laboured to bring this about, therefore haue planted Vineyards to their great cost and trouble, helping and ayding the soyle by the vttermost diligence they could; but in the end it hath proued to very little purpose.

The most rich commoditie which our land hath naturally growing, is wooll, for the which it is renowned ouer a great part of the earth. For our Cloathes are sent into *Turkie*, *Venice*, *Italie*, *Barbarie*, yea, as farre as *China* of late, besides *Musconie*, *Denmarke*, and other Northern nations: for the which wee haue exchange of much other Merchandise necessary for vs here; besides that, the vse of this wooll doth in seuerall labours set many thousands of our people in worke at home, which might otherwise be idle.

Among the commendations of England, as appeareth in the verse before named, is the store of good Bridges: whereof the most famous are London-Bridge, and that at Rochester.

In diuers places here, there be also riuers of good name, but the greatest glory doth rest in three: the *Thames*: called in Latin of *Tame* & *lſ*, *Tameſis*: *Seuerne*, called *Sabrina*:  
and

## Of the Northerne Ilands.

and *Trent*, which is commonly reputed to haue his name of *Trente* the French word, signifying Thirty which some haue expounded to be so giuen, because thirty seuerall riuers doe run into the same: And some other doe take it to be so called, because there be thirty seuerall sorts of fishes in that water to be found; the names whereof doe appeare in certaine old verses recited by *M. Camden*, in his booke of the description of England.

One of the honourable commendations which are reputed to be in this Realme, is the faireneesse of our greater and larger Churches, which as it doth yet appeare in those which we call Cathedrall Churches, many of them being of very goodly and sumptuous Buildings, so in times past it was more to be seene, when the Abbies, and those which were called Religious houses, did flourish; whereof there were a very great number in this kingdome, which did eat vp much of the wealth of the land; but specially those which liued there, giuing themselues to much filthinesse, and diuers sorts of vncleannesse, did so draw downe the vengeance of God vpon those places, that they were not onely dissolued, but almost vtterly defaced by *K. Henry the eight*. There are here two Archbishopricks, and 24. other Bishopricks within *England* and *Wales*.

It was a tradition among old writers, that *Britaine* did breede no Wolues in it, neither would they liue here: but the report was fabulous, in as much as our Chronicles doe write, that there were here such store of them, that the Kings were enforced to lay it as an imposition vpon the Kings of *Wales*, who were not able to pay much money for Tribute, that they should yearely bring in certain hundreds of Wolues; by which meanes, they were at the length quite ridde from Wolues.

The Countrie of *Wales* had in times past a King of it selfe, yea and sometimes two, the one of *North-wales*, and the other of *South-wales*: betweene which people at this



## Of the Northerne Islands.

day there is no great good affection: But the Kings of *England*, did by little and little so gaine vpon them, that they subdued the whole Country vnto themselues; and in the end King *Henry* the eight, intending thereby to benefit this Realme and them, did diuide the country into Shires, appointed there his *Iudices Itinerantes*, or *Iudges* of the circuite to ride, and by Act of Parliament, made them capable of any preferment in England, as well as his other Subjects.

When the first newes was brought to *Rome* that *Julius Caesar* had attempted vpon *Britaine*, *Tullie* in the elegance of his wit (as appeareth in one of his Epistles) did make a flout at it, saying that there was no gaine to be gotten by it. For gold here was none, nor any other commodity to be had, vnlesse it were by slaues, whom he thought that his friend to whom he wrote, would not looke to be brought vp in Learning or Musique. But if *Tullie* were aliue at this day, he would say, that the case is much altered, in asmuch as in our Nation, is sweetnesse of behaviour, abundance of Learning, Musicke, and all the liberall Arts, goodly buildings, sumptuous apparell, rich fare, and whatsoeuer else may be truely boasted to be in any country neere adioyning.

The Northerne part of *Britaine* is *Scotland*, which is a Kingdome of it selfe, & hath beene so from very auncient time, without any such conquest, or maine transmutation of state, as hath beene in other Countries. It is compassed about with the sea on all sides, sauing where it ioyneth vpon *England*; and it is generally diuided into two parts, the one wherof is called the *Hyeland*, & the other the *Lowland*.

The *Lowland* is the most ciuil part of the Realme, wherein Religion is more orderly established, and yeeldeth reasonable subiection vnto the King: But the other part called the *Hyeland*, which lyeth further to the North, or else bendeth towards *Ireland*, is more rude and sauage: and  
whether

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whether the King hath not so good accesse, by reason of Rocks and Mountaines; as to bring the Noblemen which inhabite there, to such due conformitie of Religion, or otherwise, as he would.

This Country generally is more poore then *England*, or the most part of the Kingdomes of *Europe*: but yet of late yeares, the wealth thereof is much encreased by reason of their great traffique to all the parts of Christendome: yea, vnto *Spaine* it selfe, which hath of late yeares bin denied to the *English* and some other Nations, and yet vnto this day they haue not any Ships, but for Merchandise; neither hath the King in his whole dominion any vessell called *A man of Warre*. Some that haue trauailed into the Northerne parts of *Scotland*, doe report, that in the *Solstitium æstiuale*, they haue scant any night, and that which is, is not aboue two houres, being rather a dimneste, then a darkeneste. The language of the Country is in the *Lowland*, a kinde of barbarous *English*: But towards *Ireland* side, they speake *Irish*: which is the true reason whereof it is reported that in *Britaine* there are foure Languages spoken, that is *Irish* in part of *Scotland*, *English* for the greatest part: *Welsh* in *Wales*; & *Cornish* in *Cornwall*.

In the confines between the two Kingdoms of *England* and *Scotland*, which are commonly called the *Borders*, there lye diuers outlawes and vnrulie people; which as being subiect to neither Prince by their good wils, but so farre as they list, doe exercise great robberies, and stealing of Cattell from them that dwell thereabout: and yet the Princes of both Realmes, for the better preservation of Peace and Iustice, doe appoint certaine Warders on each side, who haue power, euen by *Martiall Law*, to repress all enormities.

The Q. of *England* had on her side three: whereof one is called the *L. Warden of the East marches*, the other of the *West marches*; the third, the *Warden of the middle marches*,



## Of the Northerne Ilands.

who with all their power cannot so order things, but that by reason of the outrages thereabouts committed, the Borders are much vnpeopled: whiles such as desire to be ciuill, doe not like to liue in so dangerous a place.

It hath been wondred at by many that are wise, how it could be, that whereas so many Countries, hauing in them diuers Kingdomes and Regiments, did all in the end come to the dominion of one (as appeareth at this day in *Spaine*, where were wont to be diuers Kings, & so in times past in *England*, where the seuen Kingdomes of the *Saxons* did grow all into one) yet that *England* & *Scotland*, being continue within one Iland, could neuer ~~be~~ now be reduced to one Monarchy; whereof in reason the *French* may be thought to haue beene the greatest hinderance. For they hauing felt so much smart by the armes of *England* alone, in so much that sometime all that whole country almost hath beene ouerrunne and possessed by the *English*, haue thought that it would be impossible that they should resist the force of them, if both their Kingdomes were vnited and ioyned into one.

The Custome therefore of the Kings of *France* in former times was, that by their gold they did binde vnto them the Kings and Nobility of *Scotland*, and by that meanes, the Kings of *England* were no sooner attempting any thing vpon *France*, but the *Scots* by and by would inuade *England*: Whereupon the Prouerbe amongst our people grew, *That hee who will France winne, must with Scotland first begin.*

And these *Frenchmen* continuing their policie, did with infinite rewards breake off the Marriage which was intended and agreed vpon betweene King *Edward* the sixth, and *Mary* the late vnfortunate Q. of *Scotland*, drawing her rather to be married with the *Dolphin* of *France*, who was sonne to King *Henry* the second: and afterward himselfe raigned by the name of King *Francis* the second: But  
this

## Of the Northerne Ilands.

this was so ill taken by the *English*, that they sought reuenge vpon *Scotland*, and gaue them a great ouerthrow in that Battaille which was called *Musselborough-field*.

The people of this Country were in times past so barbarous, that they did not refuse to eate mans flesh: which as *S. Hierome* doth witnesse of them, he himselfe saw some of them to doe in *France*; and the fame thereof went so farre, that *Chrysostome* in one place doth allude to such a matter.

There be many little Ilands adioyning vnto the great Iland *Britaine*: as at the very North point of *Scotland* the *Orcades*, which are in number about 30. The chiefe whereof is named *Orkney*: whereof the people are barbarous.

On the West-side of *Scotland* towards *Ireland*, lye the Ilands called *Hebrides* in number 44. where inhabite the people ordinarily called the *Red-shankes*. Not farre from thence, is the Ile *Mona*, commonly called the *Ile of Man*, the peculiar iurisdiction of the Earles of *Darbie*, with homage notwithstanding reserved to the Crown of *England*.

On the North-part of *Wales*, is the Iland of *Anglsey*, which is reputed a distinct Shire.

Towards *France* side, on the South part of *England* is the Ile of *Wight*, in Latine called *Vectis*: which is a good hold in the narrow Seas against the *French*. More neare *France* are the Iles of *Gernesey* and *Iernesey*, where they speake *French*, and are vnder the Crowne of *England*. There are also many other, but of small account. As the Iles of *Teanet* and *Sheppy* on the side of *Kent*, the *Sorlings* or *Sully* at the end of *Cornewall*, in number as it is said 145. *Caldey*, *Lunday*, and the *Flatholnes*, with others in the mouth of *Seuerne*. *Holy-farne*, *Cocket Ilands* on the side of *Northumberland*. And thus much of great *Britaine*, and the Ilands thereunto adioyning.



Of the Ilands in the Mediterranean Sea.



Here be many Ilands in the *Mediterranean*, renowned in all the old Writers: but the chiefe of them onely shall be touched. From the pillars of *Hercules* going East-ward, are two Ilands not far from *Spaine*, which in time past were called *Insula Baleares*, for that the people of them did vse (both for their delight and armour) Slings, which they continually (almost) carried about with them: and wherevnto, as *Plinie* writeth, they did traine vp their children from their yongest yeares, not giuing them any meate, till they had from some post or beame cast it downe with a sling. Of these were those Fonditors, or Sling-casters, which the *Carthaginians* & *Spaniards* did vse in their wars against the *Romanes*. The lesser of these, which lieth most West, was called in the old time *Minorica*: The bigger, which lieth more East, was called *Maiorica*, and now *Minorica* and *Maiorica*, they are both vnder the dominion of the King of *Spaine*.

More Eastward in the Sea, called *Mare Inferum*, or *Tyrrhenum*, lyeth the Iland of *Corfica* ouer against *Genua*: and direct South-ward from thence lieth the great Iland *Sardinia*. For the quiet possession of which two, the wars were oftentimes reuiued betweene the old *Carthaginians* and the *Romanes*; for these two Ilands lye in the middle very fitly.

The Iland of *Corfica* is subiect to the state of *Genua*, whither the *Genoes* do transport things out of the Maine, and are ruled by their *Gouernors*, as the *Venetians* doe *Candie*.

This

## Of the Mediterranean Islands.

This Island is but barren, either in respect of some other that lye neere vnto it, or of the Country of *Italie*: but yet yeeldeth profit, ease, and honour vnto the states of *Genoa* which hath little land beside it.

The Island of *Sardinia* also is no way so fruitfull as *Sicily*, but it is vnder the gouernment of the King of *Spaine*, and was the same which was promised to *Anthony* the King of *Nauare*, father to *Henrie* the 4. King of *France*, in recompence of *Pamplona* & the rest of the Kingdome of *Nauare* then, and now detained from him, and his heires, by the *Spaniard*. But this was the deuice onely of the *Cardinal* of *Lorraine*, who intending to draw him to Papistray, and to order his politique purposes did make shew of this, which was no way meant by the *Spaniard*.

Further to the East, at the very point of the South-part of *Italie*, lyeth the great Island *Sicilia*, which some haue supposed to haue been heretofore a part of the continent: but by an earth-quake and inundation of water, to haue beene rent off, and so made an Island. The figure of this Country is *Triquetra*, Triangle or three square.

*Iustine* in his 4. Booke, doth seeme to suspect that *Sicily* was in times past fastened vnto *Italie*. But *Seneca*, in *Consolatione ad Martian*. Cap. 97. doth say plainly, that it was sometimes a peece of the continent.

There was also a great contention for this Country, betweene the *Carthaginians* and the *Romanes*: but the *Romanes* obtained it, and had from thence exceeding store of Corne yearly: whereupon *Sicilie* was called *Horreum Pop. Rom.* Here stood the goodly Citie called *Siracusa*: which was destroyed and sacked by *Marcellus* the *Romane*. When as *Linie* writeth of him, he being resolved to set on fire that City, which was then one of the goodliest places of the world, could not chuse but breake forth into teares, to see how vaine and transitory the glory of worldly things is here.



## Of the Mediterranean Sea.

At that time liued *Archimedes*, who was a most admirable ingenious Engine maker for all kinde of fortifications: of whom it is said, that by burning Glasse which he made, he did set on fire diuers Ships which the *Romanes* had lying in the Hauco. When the City was taken, he was making plots and drawing figures on the ground, for to preuent the assaults of the *Romanes*: and being vnkknown, he was slaine by some of the Souldiers, which did breake in vpon him. Some thinke that it was he and not *Architas* which made the Dove; of which it is written, that it was so equally poyled, that being throwne vp into the ayre, it would nouer or flutter there, and in a good space not fall downe.

This was in times past a kingdome, where the two Tyrants, the elder and the yonger *Dionisius* did raigne, where *Gelo* also, that great friend to the *Romanes* did remaine.

It was afterward made a prouince, and gouerned by the *Prator* or Deputy of the *Romanes*: wherof *Verres* was one, who was so inueighed against by *Tullie*.

It grew afterward to be a kingdome againe; insomuch that *Tancredus* was King of *Sicilie*, which entertained our *Richard* the first, when with *Philip* the King of *France*, he went to the conquest of the Holy-land. Here was likewise *Phalaris*, the tyrant so famous, King of *Agri-gentum*.

The tyrannies which were vsed in *Sicilie*, were in times past so famous, that they grew into a prouerbe; as, *Inuidia Siculi non inuenire tyranni, tormentum maius*; but they who were the causes of all, did oftentimes speede very ill themselves: as appeareth by the elder *Dyonisius*, who being driuen out of his dominion, did flee into *Italie*, and was glad there to teach children, that so he might supply his necessity. His Son grew more tyrannous then the Father, and stood so far in feare of his owne people, that many times he caused himselfe to be shut vp in a Towre, and his guard

## Mediterranean Sea.

the doore, that no body might come at him : he durst not trust his Barbour to shaue or clip him, for feare of cutting of his throat ; but that which was done he caused his Daughters to doe, who with the thin inner skin of Walnuts being set on fire, is said to haue taken off the hayre off his face.

This was he, whole felicity when *Damocles* a flatterer did seeme maruailously to admire, he caused him to be set one day at dinner in his Royall seat, with dainty fare before him, Plate, rich-hangings, Musicke, and all other matters of delight; but withall a naked sword, which was onely tyed with a single haire of a Horses maine to be hanged directly ouer him : the feare whereof, did so feare the flatterer, least it should fall vpon him, that he continually looked vpwards, and about him, and tooke no ioy of that which was before him : whereby *Dyonisius* did euidently teach him, that the state of some Princes, how-soeuer it seeme glorious vnto others, yet it doth bring little contentment vnto themselves, by the reason of the continuall dangers which hang ouer them.

It is reported of this man, that when all the people of his Country did for his cruelty continually curse him, there was one woman which daily did goe to the Churches, and prayed the Gods to lengthen his life : wherewithall when *Dyonisius* was acquainted, marueiling himselfe at the reason of it, hee sent for her, and asked what good thing he had done vnto her, that she was so carefull euermore to pray for him? but the woman answered that it was not for loue, but for feare, that she begged these things of the gods : For (said she) I am an old woman, I doe remember when your Grand-father liued, who being very hard vnto his people, was much maligned by them, and they prayed that they might be rid of him : which falling out, afterward your Father came in place, and he was worse then the former : which when



## Of the Ilands in the

the subjects could not endure, they prayed also that hee might dye, hoping that the next would be better: Then came your selfe in place, who haue much exceeded the cruelty of your Father: And whereas others wish that you were gone also, trusting for amendment in the next, I that haue liued so long, and see that things grow worse and worse, doe pray that you may continue; because that if we should haue one that should succeede you, if he walke in the steps of his predecessours, he must needs be as bad as the Diuell himselfe; for none else in tyrannie can goe beyond you.

*Phalaris* of *Agrigentum*, was he who proposed rewards vnto him who inuented new torments, which caused *Perillus* to make a Bull of Brasse, into the which if offenders should be put, and fire should be set vnder, then it would make them roare like a Bull: But when vpon the terrour thereof none would so offend (as to deserue that torment) *Phalaris* tooke *Perillus* the Author thereof, and to try the experience, put him into it, whereby *Perillus* lost his life.

This Country is now also vnder the King of *Spaine*, who among other titles, was wont to call himselfe King of both *Sicilies*, reckoning this Iland for one; and that part of *Italie* for another which is now called *Calabria*; and was in the *Romane* histories named *Magna Gracia*.

There is nothing more renowned in all *Cicilia*, either with new or old Writers, then the Mountaine *Aetna*: which being in the out-side oft couered with snow, yet by a sulphurous or brimstonie matter, doth continually burne within; yea, so that whereas it was supposed in the ages last before vs, that the matter being consumed the Fire had ceased: twise in our age it hath broke forth again, to the incredible losse of all the country adioyning, the Ashes thereof destroying Vines and fruits, which were within the compasse of many myles about.

*Agatheas* in his Historie doth tell, that in his owne  
time

## *Mediterranean Sea.*

time there was an incredible deale of Ashes which did fall about *Constantinople*, and the places neare adioyning, insomuch that the ground was couered with the same; which he reputeth to haue been brought from the Hill in *Sicily*.

But *Bodin*, in his *Method. Hist.* doth reprove this as a fable, which can haue no shew of truth, by reason of the great distance of the place: notwithstanding it is certaine, that sometimes when it doth strongly breake out, the Fields and Vineyards, and all the fruits within the compasse of some miles are much hurt therewithall.

The reason of this Fire was laid downe by *Iustine* in his fourth Booke, and is since approued both by Historians and Philosophers: which is, that within the ground, there is great store of Sulphure and Brimstonie matter, which hauing once fire in it, is apt to keepe it.

And whereas all the whole Country is full of Chinks and Chaps and Hollownesse within the ground, the matter which entreteth there, doth minister substance to the continuance of that flame: as we see that water cast on coales in the Smiths Forge, doth make them burne more feruently: and then into the Chinkes and Chaps, the winde doth also enter, which by blowing & whiffing, doth both cause the Fire neuer to extinguish, and sometimes (according vnto the strength of the blast) doth make flames breake out, either more or lesse.

There are in the Hill *Aetna*, two principall places which are like vnto two Furnaces, with Tunnels on the top of them, where diuers times, (but especially in the Euening and night) the flame doth appeare, mounting vpwards; and it is so strong, that oftentimes it brings vp with it burnt and scorching stones, and peeces of hard substances, which seemes to be Rent out of some Rocke, to the great terrour and danger of any that doe come neere.



## Of the Ilands in the

This is that place whether *Empedocles* threw himselfe, that he might be reported a God.

This is it whereof *Virgill* doth make his tract called *Aetna*; which the Poets did report to be the Shop of *Vulcan*, where *Cyclopes* did frame the Thunder-bolts for *Jupiter*.

And to conclude, that is it, which some of our grosse Papists haue not feared to imagine to be the place of *Purgatorie*: As they haue beene so foolish to thinke, that there is also another place, called the Mount *Veda* in *Iceland*, where soules haue another *Purgatorie* to be punished in; but there by cold, which *Saxius* in his *Commentaries* is so absurdly grosse as to report and allow.

The Papists haue shew for their *Purgatorie* in *Aetna*, out of that Booke which is commonly called by the name of the *Dialogues of Gregorie the great*: For in that Booke there are diuers things to that purpose. But our best Writers of late, haue discovered that that same Treatise is a counterfaite, being made by a latter Pope *Gregorie*, and not by the first of that name, ordinarily called *Gregorius Magnus*; who although he haue in his works diuers things tending to superstition; yet he was neuer so absurde as to write things so vnprobable, foolish, and grounded vpon so bare reports as these were.

Such another Hill as the Mountaine of *Aetna* is, was in time past *Vesuvius*, a hill in *Campania*, which is part of *Italie*; but this neuer had the like continuance as that of *Aetna*, although in the time of *Plinie*, the fire did breake forth there, and so strongly as that the elder *Plinie*, who spent all his time in discovering the secrets of Nature, pressing neere to behold it, was stifeled with the flame, smoke or ashes; so that he died in the place, as is most excellently described in the Booke of his *Epistles* by his Nephew the yonger *Plinie*.

Not farre from *Sicily*, on the South, lyeth the little Ile

## Mediterranean Sea.

He called in old time *Melita*: whence those Dogs come which are so much desired, vnder the names of *Canes Melitenses*.

This is the place where *S. Paul* was cast vp after his shipwracke in his Iourney to *Rome*, where the Viper hanged on his hand, and did not hurt him.

This Country is now called *Malta*, and is one of the places most renowned in the world for repelling of the *Turkes*: When *Salomon* the Emperour of them, did send against it a most mighty Armie, it was then defended by them, who are called the Knights of *Malta*, which by Sea doe great spoyle to the Gallies of the *Turke*, that passeth that way.

There were in times past, diuers Orders of Knights, and men that had vowed themselues to aduenture their liues and whole state, for the maintenance of Christs religion, and some places of the Earth, against the Infidels and *Sarazens*.

The most ancient of all those, were called the *Templers*, who were a great corporation or society, consisting of diuers Gentlemen, yonger brothers for the most part, out of all the Realmes of Christendome: Their chiefe charge was to defend the City of *Ierusalem*, and the Reliques or remainder of the Temple there, and Sepulchre of Christ: for the preseruacion of which places, together with the rest of the *Holy land*, they had giuen vnto them, and purchased for their money, very rich and ample possessions in *England*, *France*, *Spaine*, *Italie*, and other places of *Europe*, in so much that in the dayes of *Mathew Paris*, he reporteth that they had vnder them many thousands of Mannors.

They had also in euery Kingdome (where their Order was permitted) a great and ample house, where some chiefe of their company did lie, who receiued the Rents within that Kingdome, and caused the money to be



## Of the Ilands in the

transported into the *Holy-Land*, and other ordinances to be made and executed belonging vnto their Order: to which houses, the *Temple* that is now in *London* was a chiefe one; which had in former times belonged to the *Iewes*, but was afterwards translated to that vse, when the *Holy-Land* was quite taken by *Saladine*, and could neuer be recovered into the hands of the Christians since the society of these *Templers* ceased: the *Pope* and the King of *France* conspiring their ruins, and their Lands were dispersed into diuers mens hands.

In the same time when the *Templers* were in their strength, there was another sort called the *Hospitallers*, whose condition and imployment was very like vnto the other, both of them fighting for the preservation of *Palastina*.

We reade that sometimes these two companies had great iarres betweene themselves, whereby grew much hinderance to the warres against the Infidels.

All these were accounted as Orders of Religion, and therefore it was forbidden them at any time to marrie, without dispensation from the *Pope*; because not being entangled to wife and children, they might be more resolute to aduenture their lives.

After them grew vp the order of the Knights of *Rhodes*, who since they could not liue in the *Holy-Land*, yet would abide as neere vnto it as possible they might; and therefore partly to preserve Pilgrimes which should goe to visite the Sepulchre of *Christ*, and partly to infest the *Turks* and *Sarazens*; but especially to keep the enemies of *Christ*s faith from encroaching further vpon *Christendome*; which most earnestly they did, and doe desire: they placed themselves in the Ilands of *Rhodes*, where daily doing great scath vnto the *Turke*, *Soliman* the great Warriour could not endure them, but with a mightie Armie so ouer-laid them, that he wonne the Iland from them.

After

## Mediterranean Sea.

After the losse of *Rhodes*, the Iland of *Malta* was giuen vnto these Knights by *Charles* the fifth, Emperour; whereupon they are now called the Knights of *Malta*: for the great Maister after he came from *Rhodes* went into *Candy*, and from thence into *Sicily* and so into *Italy*, from thence he made a voyage into *England*, and then into *France*, and lastly into *Sauoy*, from whence he departed, with the religion into this Iland, and there they continue and behaue themselves as in the former Iland: and offering no violence vnto *Christians*, they much hinder the courses of the *Turkes* from *Gracia* and *Asia*, & of the other *Saracens* from *Fez* and *Morocco*. They are very valiant men, fit to doe great seruice, either by Land or Sea, as appeared when *Soliman* did thinke to haue surprised them and their Iland: the description of which Warre is diligently laid downe by *Calius Secundus Curio*, in a Treatise dedicated to *Elizabeth* Queene of *England*.

There haue been diuers other Orders of Knights, yea, and some of them reputed to be a kinde of Religion in *Portugall*, *France*, *England*, *Burgundie*, and some other places of *Christendome*; but because their seruice hath not bene employed purposely, as these which are before mentioned, we doe not touch them in this place.

Neere vnto *Gracia* and *Peloponnesus*, on the West-side towards *Italie*, is the Ile *Corcyra*, now termed *Corfu*: and not farre South from that, is *Cephalenia*, and from thence South is *Zon*, called by *Virgill*, *Nemerosa Zephyntus*: all which Ilands are at this day vnder the *Venetians*.

The greatest commodity which that Country doth yeeld are Currans; which are gathered of a kinde of small Grapes; and for the making whereof they commonly one time every Sommer for the space of three weekes haue a continuall drought, day and night, in which time, the Currans are laid abroad in the open aire, and may not be taken in; insomuch that if the season doe  
continue



## Of the Ilands in the

continue hot and dry, their Merchandise is very good : but if there fall any raine vntill the time be expired of their full drying, the Currans are not good, but doe mould and change their colour to be somewhat white, like Meale. The state of *Venice*, vnder whom this Iland is, doth make a great commodity of the Impost, or Taxation, which is laid vpon this marchandise, calling the Tribute which is paid for them, the *Reuenue of Saint Marke* : for vnto that Saint is the City of *Venice* dedicated, and they hold him for their Patron.

In this Iland (besides the Merchants who repaire thither) are diuers *Italians*, who be there in *Gaxion* for the *Venecians*, in one speciall Castle, which commandeth the whole Iland.

There are also diuers Fryers of that Nation, who performe vnto their Countrimen such exercises of Religion as are conuenient.

They will not suffer any of our Merchants to haue christian buriall among them, vnlesse at his death he be confessed after the *Romish* fashion : whereupon some haue beene forced to conuey ouer some of their dead bodies into *Morea* (which is not farre distant) to be buried there among the *Greekes*, and after their fashion.

The naturall inhabitants of *Zant*, are *Greekes*, both by Language and Religion, and obserue all fashions of the *Greekish* Church : in whose words (being now much corrupted and depraued) there may yet be found some tokens and remainders of the old, pure, and vncorrupted *Greeke*.

There are in this Country great store of Swine kept, whereof the inhabitants doe feede, and carry them into *Morea*, but the *Turkes* there (by their *Mahumetane* profession) will taste no Swines flesh.

In *Zacynthus* our English Merchants haue an House of abode for their traffique. South-east from *Morea* lyeth  
the

## Mediterranean Sea.

the great Iland *Creta*, where *Minos* sometimes did raigne, so famous for his severity.

This Country was then called *Hecatompolis*, as hauing in it a hundred Townes and Cities.

Heere stood the Labyrinth which was the worke of *Dadalus*, who conueighed the house so by the manifold turnings, infinitenesse of Pillers and Doores, that it was impossible to finde the way; yet *Theseus* (by the helpe of *Ariadne*) the daughter of King *Minos*, taking a bottome of Thread, and tying the one end at the first doore, did enter and slay the *Minotaur*, which was kept there; and afterward returned out safe againe.

The ancient Inhabitants of this Country, were such noted lyers, that beside the proverbs which were made of them, as, *Cretense mendacium*, & *Cretisandum est cum Cretensibus*; the Apostle *Paul* in his Epistle to *Titus*, who was left thereby him as Bishop of that Iland, doth cite a verse out of the Heathen Poet *Epimenides*, that the *Cretians* are euer lyers, euill beasts, and slow-bellies.

This Iland is in our daies called *Candie*; being the place from whence our Sugar of *Candie* is brought. It is vnder the *Venetians*, and reputed a part of their Seigniorie: Although the *Turke*, when they had taken *Ciprus*, did thinke also to haue surprised it; but that it pleased God by the meanes of *Don Iohn of Austria*, in the behalfe of his brother the King of *Spaine* and the *Venetians*, to giue the *Turke* that great ouerthrow at Sea in the fight neare vnto *Le Panto*: Yet since that time (no doubt) the *Turkes* haue a greedy eye vpon the Iland of *Candie*.

Betweene *Creta* and *Peloponnesus*, lyeth *Cithera*. There was the fine Temple of *Venus*; who thereof by the Poets, is called *Cutherea*. The Ilands are many, which lye in the Sea called *Mare Agium*, from the bottome of *Greece* vnto the top of the *Hellepont*, as all the *Cyclads*, *Euboia*, the great Iland *Samos*, and *Chios*; so *Scyros* where *Achilles*

Q

was



## Of the Ilands in the Mediterranean Sea.

was borne, and was King of that Country: There is also *Lesbos* and *Cemnos*, *Mytelene*, and *Ithaca* where *Ulysses* was King, and *Androse*, whither *Themistocles* was sent by the *Athenians* for tribute as *Plutarch* layeth downe the Historie: *Themistocles* did tell them that he came to demand tribute, or some great imposition vpon them, being accompanied with two Goddesses, the one was (*Eloquence*) to perswade them; and the other (*Violence*) to enforce them. Whereunto the *Andraans* made answer, that they had on their side two Goddesses as strong, whereof the one was (*Necessity*) whereby they had it not; and the other was (*Impossibility*) whereby they could not part with that which they neuer possessed. Of these places, something may be read in the old History of the *Greekes*. Diuers of these did strue that *Homer* was borne in them; but of certaine, many of those Kings which *Homer* saith came with *Agamemnon* to the siege of *Troy*, were Kings but of those small Ilands.

East-wards from thence, not farre from some part of *Natolia*, or *Asia* the lesser, is the Iland of *Rhodes*, the friendship of the inhabitants whereof was in auncient time very much desired by the Princes that had to doe that way: so that *Alexander* first, and the *Romanes* afterwards, did embrace their league.

Here was that huge and mighty Image of the Sunne, which was called *Colossus Rhodius*.

This Country was long defended by those who were called the Knights of *Rhodes*, against the power of the *Turke*, and it was a great Bulwark to defend Christendome, till that in the yeare one thousand five hundred twenty and one, *Solyman* the great *Turke*, did win it from the *Christians* by force.

From thence South-ward is the Ile *Carphathus*: but in the farthest end of the East-part of the *Mediterranean*, is *Cyprus*, which about 300. yeares since, was a kingdome, and

## Of the Ilands in the Indian Sea.


and did afford great aide vnto the Christians that went to conquer the *Holy-lands*; but it is now vnder the *Turke*. The chiefe City thereof is *Famogusta*, which is an Arch-bishops Sea; for Christians, for their tribute, doe yet liue there. In this Country in old time was *Venus* much honoured, and therefore she was called *Cypria*, as also *Paphia*, because she had a Temple in a Citie there called *Paphos*.

Neere vnto *Syria* stood the Iland *Tyrus*: against the pride whereof the Prophets doe much speake: this was a rich Citie for Merchandise and Nauigation in old time; and is the place from whence *Dido*, and the builders of *Carthage* did come.

The destruction of it is most famous by *Alexander* the great. Of the rest of the small Ilands we doe say nothing.

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## Of the Ilands in the Indian Sea.

He Ilands are very many that doe lye in the Seas adioyning to the *East Indies*; but the most famous among them shall onely be touched. Among old Writers, as especially appeareth by *Solinus*, was well knowne that which was then called *Taprobana*, which lyeth neere the *Aequinoctiall* Line. It was in that time a Monarchie, where the Kings raigned not by succession, but by election: and if any of them did grow intollerable, he was deposed and inforced to dye, by with-drawing from him all things necessary. This is now called *Sumatra*, and hath in it diuers Kings.

Not farre from thence lye East-ward the two Ilands called *Iana maior*, and *Iana minor*; which were also known to the old writers, as in generall may be noted, that all



## Of the Ilands in the Indian Sea.

the East-part, either in the Continent, or in the Ilands, haue very many small Kings and kingdomes.

From whence yet more East, lyeth a great number of Iles, which are now called the *Moluccoes*, which are places as rich for their quantity as any in the world; from these it is that the *Spaniards* haue yearely so great quantity of all kinds of spice; neither is there any place of all the East *Indies*, that doth more richly furnish home their Carrecks, then doe these *Moluccoes*.

The Ilands which are called by that name, are by some of our writers accounted to be at least foure and twenty or five and twenty; and some of them which are the bigger, haue in them two or three Kings a peece; and some of them which are lesse, are either the seuerall dominions of seuerall Kings, or else two or three of them doe belong to some one Prince. When Sir *Francis Drake* did compass the whole World, he came neere vnto these, but did not touch at any of them; but Master *Candish* taking as large a iourney, was in one or more of them, where he found the people to be intelligent and subtrill, and the kings of the countrie to take vpon them as great state as might be conuenient for such petty Princes.

Some of these Ilands the *Spaniards* in right of the *Portugals* haue got into their owne possession, with the Kings of some other they haue leagued; and a third sort vterly detest them. More Northward ouer against *China*, lieth a country consisting of a great many Ilands called *Iapona*, or *Iapan*, the people whereof are much of the same nature with the men of *China*: this Country was first discovered by the *Iesuites*, who in a blinde zeale haue trauelled into the farthest parts of the world to win men to their Religion. This Iland is thought to be very rich.

About the parts of *Iapan*, there are diuers people, whose most ordinary habitation is at the Sea, and do neuer come into the Land, but onely for their necessities, or to furnish them-

## Of the Ilands in the Atlanticke Sea.

themselues with new vessels, wherein they may abide; but lying not farre from the Land, they haue Ducks, and other Fowles swimming about them, which sometimes they take into their Boates and Ships, and in such sort doe breede them, to the maintenance of them and their children.

Into this *Iapan* of late dayes haue our *English* also sailed, as into other parts of the *East-Indies*, and there erected a Factory.

The rest that be either neere vnto *Asia* or *Africa*, because there is little written of them, we passe ouer, onely naming them, as the *Philippinae*, *Borneo*, *Bandara*: as also on the side of *Africke*, the Iland of *Saint Laurence*, called by the inhabitants *Madagascar*, *Sumatra*, and other of lesse note: And yet we doe finde in *Solinus* and *Plinie*, but especially in *Pomponius Mela*, that it was knowne in old time, that there were many Ilands neere vnto the *East-Indies*, which as it might be first discovered by the trafficking of the Ilanders into the continent; so no doubt that Nauie which *Alexander* sent out to *India* to descry and coast through the Easterne Seas, did giue much light thereunto, partly by that which themselues did see, and partly by those things which they heard in such places, or of such persons as they met with in their trauaile.

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## Of the Ilands in the Atlanticke Sea.



Here be many Ilands which be West-ward from *Africa*, and from *Europe*: as those which are called the *Gorgades*, that lye in the same climate with *Guinea*, which are foure in number, not inhabited by men, but they are full of Goates.



## Of the Ilands in the Indian Sea.

Goates. *Peter Martyr* in his first *Decade*, the sixt Booke, saith: that the Admirall *Colonus*, in the yeare of *Christ* 1498 sailing to *Hispaniola* with eight Ships, came to the Ile *Madera*, from whence sending directly the rest of his Ships to the East *Indies*, he in one Ship with deckes and two Carayels sailed to the Equinoctiall; betweene which and the Ile *Madera*, in the middest way, lye 13. Ilands of the *Portugals*, in old time called *Hesperides*, now *Cabonerde*, two dayes sayling distant from the inner parts of *Ethiope*, one whereof is called *Bonauiſla*. Northward from thence, in the same climate with the South part of *Morocco*, lye those which are called *Canarie*, or the fortunate Ilands, which are leauen in number; being most fruitfull and very pleasant, and therefore called by that name, *Fortunate insule*. This is famous in them, that it hath pleased all Cosmographers to make their Meridian to be their first point where they doe begin to reckon the computation of their Longitude, and vnto them after three hundred and threescore Degrees to returne againe.

From these Ilands it is, that those strong and pleasant Sacks, which are called *Canary Wines* are brought; and from thence are fetched those that they call *Canary Birds*. These Ilands are vnder the Crowne of *Spaine*: The heate of the Country is very great, and therefore fitter for concoction; but besides that, the soyle of it selfe is accommodated thereunto, and by reason of them, both these Ilands doth bring forth a Grape, which is sweeter in taste then any other Grape, & hath that property with it, that the wine which is made thereof, doth not fume into the head, like other Sacke, but doth helpe the stomacke, and exercise the force of it there. The Slips of their Vines haue bin brought into *Spaine* and some other places of *Europe*, but they haue not sorted to the same purpose, as they doe in their natieue Country.

There doe grow also in these Iles, good store of  
Sugar-

## Of the Ilands in the Indian Sea.

Sugar-canes, which yeeldeth plentifully that kinde of commoditie vnto *Spaine*, either for Marmeleets ( wherein they much delight ) or for other vses.

*Peter Martir* in the beginning of his *Decades*, which he hath written *De Orbe nouo*, doth particularly touch the names, and some other things of these Ilands.

On the back-side of *Africke* also, iust vnder the *Equinoctiall*, is the Ile of *Saint Thomas*, inhabited by the *Portugals*; which Iland was taken in the latter time of *Queene Elizabeth* by the *Dutch*: It is reported that in the midst of this Iland is an hill, and ouer that a continuall cloud, wherewith the whole Iland is watered, (such a like thing as this is reported of the Ile of *Cloues*;) The ayre of this Iland is vnwholsome, and there is hardly seene any *Portugall* or stranger that comes to dwell there which liues till he be aboue fortie yeares of age.

More Northward from *Africke*, lieth those Ilands which are called *Azores Insulae*, being sixe or seauen in number: of which *Tercera* is one of the chiefe: of whom, the rest by some are called *Terceras*, which are farre inferiour in fruitfulness vnto the *Canaries*. These were first vnder the Crowne of *Portugall*, and one of them was the last which was kept out from the King of *Spaine*, by the Prior *Don Antonio*, who afterward called himselfe King of *Portugall*, but the *Spaniard* at last tooke this *Tercera* from him, and doth possesse all these Ilands, together with the rest of the dominion, which did belong to the *Portugals*.

He who list to see the vnaduised proceeding of *Don Antonio* both in parting with *Lisbone*, and the rest of *Portugall*, as also in loosing these Ilands which last of all held out for him, let him read *Conestagio* of the vnion of *Portugall* to the Crowne of *Castile*. But these *Azores* haue in times past yeelded much Ode, which thereupon (in *England* was called *Iland Oade*; but now they are the place where the *Spaniards* doe commonly touch, and take in fresh water,

both



## Of America, or the new World.

both going and comming to and from *America*, finding that to passe directly without turning on either hand towards *America* is very hard, by reason of the strong current of the Water from the gulph of *Mexico*, and so forward to the East: and therefore they are enforced either to goe lower to the South, and so to water in some part of *Guinea*, or there about, or else to keepe vp as high as these Ilands.

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## Of America, or the new World.



Although some doe dispute out of *Plato*, and the olde Writers, that there was not onely a guesse, but a kinde of knowledge in auncient time, that besides *Europe*, *Asia*, and *Africa*, there was another large Country lying to the West: yet he that shall aduisedly peruse the coniectures made therevpon, may see that there is nothing of sufficiency to enforce any such knowledge, but that all antiquitie was vtterly ignorant of the new found Countries towards the West. Wherevnto this one argument most forcible may giue credit, that at the first arriuing of the *Spaniards* there, they found in those places nothing shewing traffique, or knowledge of any other Nation; but the people naked, vnciuill, some of them deuourers of mens flesh, ignorant of shipping, without all kinde of learning, hauing no remembrance of history or writing among them: neuer hauing heard of any such religion as in other places of the world is knowne, but being vtterly ignorant of Scripture, or *Christ*, or *Moses*, or any *God*; neither hauing among them any token of Crosse, Church, Temple, or deuotion, agreeing with other Nations.

The reasons which are gathered by some late Writers  
out

## Of the new World.

out of *Plato*, *Seneca*, and some other of the Auncient, are rather coniecturall, that it was likely that there should be some such place, then any way demonstratiue, or concluding by experience, that there was any such country; and the greatest inducement which they had to perswade themselves that there was any more Land towards the West then that which was formerly knowne, was grounded vpon this, that all *Asia*, *Europe*, and *Africke*, concerning the longitude of the World, did containe in them but 180. degrees: and therefore it was most probable, that in the other 180. which filleth vp the whole course of the Sunne to the number of 360. degrees, God would not suffer the Water onely to possesse all, but would leaue a place for the habitation of men, beasts, flying, and creeping creatures.

I am not ignorant that some, who make too much of vaine shewes, out of the British Antiquities, haue giuen out to the world, and written something to that purpose, that *Arthur* sometimes King of *Britaine*, had both knowledge of these parts, and some dominion in them: for they finde (as some report) that King *Arthur* had vnder his gouernment many Ilands, and great Countries, towards the North and West; which one of some speciall note hath interpreted to signifie *America*, and the Northerne parts thereof, and thereupon haue gone about to entitle the Q. of *England* to be soueraigne of those Prouinces, by right of discent from King *Arthur*. But the wisdom of our State hath beene such, as to neglect that opinion; imagining it to be grounded vpon fabulous foundations, as many things are which are now reported of king *Arthur*; onely this doth carry some shew with it, that now some hundreth of yeares since, there was a Knight of *Wales*, who with shipping and some pretty company, did goe to discouer those parts, whereof as there is some record of reasonable credit amongst the Monuments of *Wales*; so

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there



## Of the new World.

there is this one thing which giueth pregnant shew thereunto, that in the late Nauigations of some of our men to *Norumbega*, and some other Northerne parts of *America*, they finde some tokens of ciuility and Christian Religion: but especially they doe meete with some words of the *Welch* language; as that a Bird with a white head should be called *Pengwinn*, and other such like: Yet because we haue no invincible certainty hereof, and if any thing were done, it was onely in the Northerne and worse parts: and the entercourse betwixt *Wales* and those parts, in the space of diuers hundred yeares, was not continued, but quite silenced: we may goe forward with that opinion, that these *Westerne Indies* were no way known to former ages.

God therefore remembering the prophecie of his Sonne, that the Gospell of the Kingdome should before the day of iudgement, be preached in all coasts and quarters of the world; and in his mercy intending to free the people, or at the least some few of them, from the bondage of Sathan (who did detaine them in blockish ignorance,) and from their Idolatrous seruice vnto certain vile spirits (whom they call their *Zemes*, and most obsequiously did adore them) raised vp the spirit of a man worthy of perpetuall memory (one *Christophorus Columbus*, borne at *Genoa* in *Italie*) to set his minde to the discouery of a new world, who finding by that compasse of the old known world, that there must needs be a much more mightie space (to the which the Sunne by his daily motion did compasse about) then that which was already knowne and discouered; and conceiuing that this huge quantity might as well be Land as Sea, he could neuer satisfie himselfe till that hee might attempt to make prooffe of the verity thereof.

Being therefore himselfe a private man, and of more vertue then nobility, after his reasons and demonstrations

## Of the new World.

ons laid downe, whereby he might induce men that it was no vaine thing which he went about : he went vnto many of the Princes of Christendome, and among other to *Henry* the seauenth, King of *England*, desiring to be furnished with shipping and men fit for such a Nauigation : but these men refusing him partly because they gaue no credit to his narration ; and partly least they should be derided by their neighbour Princes, if by this *Genoe*-stranger they should be cousoned ; but especially, for that they were vnwilling to sustaine the charges of shipping ; at last he betooke himselfe vnto the Court of *Ferdinandus* and *Elizabeth*, King and Queene of *Castile*, where also at the first he found but small intertainment, yet persisting in his purpose without wearinesse, and with great importunitie, it pleased God to moue the minde of *Elizabeth* the Queene, to deale with her husband to furnish forth two ships for the discouery onely, and not for conquest : whereupon *Columbus*, in the yeare one thousand foure hundred nintie and two, accompanied with his brother *Bartholomew Columbus*, and many *Spaniards*, sailed farre to the West, for the space of threescore dayes and more, with the great indignation and often mutinies of his company, fearing that by reason of their long distance from home, they should neuer returne againe ; in so much that the Generall, after many perswasions of them to goe forward, was at length enforced to craue but three dayes, wherein if they saw not the land, he promised to returne ; and God did so blesse him, to the end that his voyage might not proue in vaine, that in that space, one of his company did espie fire, which was a certaine Argument that they were neere to the Land ; as it fell out indeede.

The first land whereunto they came, was an Iland, called by the inhabitants *Haity*, but in remembrance of *Spaine* from whence he came, he termed it *Hispaniola* : and



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finding it to be a country full of pleasure: and hauing in it abundance of gold and pearle, he proceeded further, and discouered another bigge Ile, which is called *Cuba*, of the which being very glad, with great treasure he returned vnto *Spaine*, bringing ioyfull newes of his happy successe.

When *Columbus* did aduenture to restraine the time of their expectation within the compasse of three daies, ingaging himselfe to returne if in that space they saw no land; there be some write, that he limited himselfe not at all aduentures, but that he did by his eye discerne a difference in the colour of the clouds which did arise out of the West, from those which formerly he had seene; which clouds did argue by the clearenesse of them, that they did not arise immediately out of the Sea, but that they had passed ouer some good space of the land, and thereby grew clearer and clearer, not hauing in them any new or late risen vapours: but this is but coniecturall.

The *Spaniards*, who are by nature a people proud, haue since the death of *Columbus* labored to obscure his fame, enuying that an *Italian* or stranger should be reported to be the first discouerer of those parts.

And therefore haue in their writings since, giuen forth that there was a *Spaniard* which had first bene there, and that *Columbus* meeting with his Cardes and descriptions, did but pursue his enterprise, and assume the glory to himselfe.

But this fable of theirs doth saue of the same spirit wherewithall many of them in his life time did reproach him, that it was no matter of importance to finde out these Countries, but that if that he had not done it, many other might, and would. Which being spoken to *Columbus* at a solemne dinner, he called for an Egge, and willed all the guests one after another to set it vp on end. Which when they could not doe, he gently bruising the  
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one end of it, did make it flat, and so set it vp; by imitation whereof each of the other did the same: whereby he mildly did reprove their enuie towards him, and shewed how easie it was to doe that which a man had seene done before.

To goe forward therefore: *Columbus* being returned to *Castile*, after his welcome to the Princes, was made great Admirall of *Spaine*, and with a new fleete of moe Ships was sent to search further, which hee accordingly did, and quickly found the maine Land, not farre from the Tropick of *Cancer*.

Which part of the Country, in honour of *Spaine*, he called *Hispania noua*; in respect whereof at this day, the King of *Spaine* doth entitle himselfe *Hispaniarum Rex*.

Some there be which write, that *Columbus* did not discover further then the Ilands; and that he spent the greatest part of his former labors in coasting *Cuba* and *Hispaniola*, to see whether they were Ilands, or a continent; and that some other in the meane time, did thrust themselves forward, and discried the firme land: Among whom *Americus Vespucius* was the chiefe, of whose name a great part of the Country is called at this day *America*.

They found the people both of the maine land & Ilands very many in number, naked, without cloathes or Armour; sowing no Corne, but making their bread of a kinde of roote, which they call *Mayr*. Men most ignorant of all kinde of Learning, admiring at the Christians, as if they had beene sent downe from heauen, and thinking them to be immortall, wondring at their Ships and the tacklings thereof; for they had no Ships of their owne, but Bigge troughes, which they call their Canoes; being made hollow (of the body of a tree) with the sharpe bones of Fishes; for Iron or such like instruments they haue none.

Although it doe appeare, that by the warres of one of



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their Petty Princes, or Kings, whom they call *Cassickes*, had against another, many thousands of the Inhabitants of those Countries, were continually wasted and spoiled; yet the number of them was so great in euery part of the West Indies, that in *Hispaniola* alone, there were supposed to be by computation of the *Spaniards* (first arriuing there) not so few as 2000000, which yet by the cruelty of the *Spaniards* were so murthered, and otherwaies made away, that within 50. yeares after, as their Writers report, there were scant any thousands in that Iland remaining of them.

The like is to be said of the populousnes of other coasts and quarters there. The Armour which those people did weare, when they entred into the warres, was nothing but some sleight couering, either made of wood, or shels of Fishes, or of cotten Wooll, or some such foolish matter. For they had no vse at all of Iron or Steele; but the most part of them came without any kinde of cloathing, or couering, yet armed with Bowes and Arrowes, which were made sharpe in the end with the scraping of Fish-bones, or with Fish-bones themselues put on the end like an Arrow-head; and that oftentimes they dipped in a kinde of most venemous poyson: Some other of them had for their weapons great Clubs, wherewith they did vse to beate out the braines of those with whom they did combate.

They had amongst them no good nor wholesome food, for euen that *Mays*, whereof they made their bread, had in the root therof a most venemous kind of liquor, which is no better then deadly poyson, but they crush out that iuyce, and afterward doe prepare the roote, so that it maketh them a kinde of bread.

There was no sort of good Literature to be found amongst them; nay, they could not so much as distinguish any times the one from the other, but by a blockish kinde  
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of obseruation of the course of the Moone: according to, which they made their computation, but without any kinde of certaintie, saving for some few Moneths which were lately past, but for the rest calculating of ought which was done diuers yeares before, they could doe nothing therein but onely grosely aime at.

But that in all ages it hath appeared, that Sathan hath vsed ignorance as one of the chiefest meanes whereby to encrease Idolatry, and consequently to enlarge his kingdom; it were otherwise incredible, that any who haue in them reason, and the shape of men, should be so brutishly ignorant of all kinde of true Religion, deuotion, and vnderstanding.

For the adoration which they doe giue, was onely vnto certaine foule spirits, which they call by the name of their *Zemes*. In remembrance of whom, diuers of them did keep in their houses certaine things made of cotten wooll, in the manner of Puppets, or like childrens babies, and to these they did yeeld a reuerence, supposing some diuine nature to be in them, because sometimes in the Euening and in the night time they had such illusions offered vnto them, as that they saw these their Puppets to moue and stirre vp and downe in their houses, and sometimes to vtter voyces, and giue diuers significations of such things as they would haue to be done, or not to be done: Yea, and that with such effect from the diuell also, that if their wils and commandements were not fulfilled, there was some vengeance or punishment executed vpon them or their children, the more to keepe them in awe and seruility to the great enemy of mankind.

Not long after the *Spaniards* entred those parts, there were in diuers of the Ilands, and some part of the Maine, such incredible tempests and disturbances of the aire, by winde and raine, thunder & lightening, as that the like had neuer bin seen nor heard of in the memory of man; which  
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are ordinarily interpreted to be the speciall worke of the diuell; who not vnfitly is tearmed by *Saint Paul* the Prince of the Aire, as hauing a liberty giuen him of God, there sometimes to doe strange executions : and of likelihood, he did make these sturs, either grieuing that the name of *Christ* was at all brought into those parts, or else seeking to fright the inhabitants from associating themselves with those who brought (although but superstitiously) the knowledge of God, and the Redeemer : being desirous that they should looke for more such distemperatures and vexations, if they would confederate themselves with them.

The people were so ignorant of all humane and ciuill conuersation, and traffiquing into those parts, at the first comming of the Christians thither, that they thought they could neuer sufficiently admire their persons, their shipping, or any other thing which they brought with them : Whereupon they without ceasing, gazed on the manner of their Ships, seeing them to be so great, and consisting of diuers Planckes; But they were neuer satisfied with staring vpon their Mastes, Sayles, Cables, and other Ropes and Tacklings, whereunto they had neuer beheld any thing like before; and yet nature and necessitie had taught them to make vnto themselves certaine Vessels for the Sea, of some one Tree, which they did vse to get downe, not with cutting, but with fire; and when it lay along vpon the ground, they did vse also fire, either to burne away that which was tough and vnfit without, or to make it hollow within : although they haue also the shels and bones of Fishes, whereby they made them smooth.

But some of these Troughes or Canoes were so great that sometimes about twentie men haue bin found rowing in one.

The trees of *America*, but especially in *Brasilia*, being  
so

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so huge, that it is reported of them, that seuerall Families haue liued in seuerall Armes of one Tree, to such a number as are in some petty Village or parish in Christendome.

Among other strange opinions, which they conceiued of the *Spaniards*, this was one, that they were the sons of some God, and not borne of mortall seed, but sent downe from Heauen vnto them; and this conceit was the stronger in them, because at the first, in such conflicts as they had with them, they could kill few or none of them; the reason whereof was, partly the Armour of the *Spaniards*, and partly the want of Iron and Steele vpon the Arrowes which the *Americans* did shoote: but they were not very long of that opinion, that they were immortall, but reformed their error, both by seeing the dead corpes of some of the Christians, and by trying an experiment vpon some of them also: for they tooke of them, and put their heads vnder the water, and held them till they were choaked; by which they knew them to be of the same nature as other men.

Among other points which did shew the great ignorance and vnlettered stupiditie of these *Indians*, this was one, that they could not conceiue the force of writing of Letters; in so much that when one *Spaniard* would send vnto another, being distant in place, in *India*, with any prouision, and would write a Letter by him, what the fellow had receiued from him: The poore *Indian* would maruaile how it should be possible that he to whom he came should be able to know all things, which either himselfe brought, or the sender directed: And thereupon diuers of them did thinke, that there was some kinde of Spirit in the Paper, and marueilously stood in feare of such a thing as a Letter was.

This Country yeeldeth great aboundance of strange Hearbes, the like whereof are not to be found in other



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parts of the world : as also some very rare Beasts, as one among the rest, who by *Peter Martirs* description, hath some part like an Elephant, some part like an Horse, and diuers other parts like diuers other Beasts ; Nature hauing studied to expresse a great many seuerall creatures in one.

There are also found at the Sea, or within some Riuer, Crocadiles, but not of that hugeness as those that breed in *Egypt*, in the Riuer *Nilus*, whereof some are described by *Plinie*, to be at the least 24. Cubits in length, which argues the Crocadile to be the greatest creature in the world, that comes of an Egge.

There are also thereabouts, some extraordinary Stones growing in the Land, as aboue others, the Blood-stones whereof there are great store : but especially there is one thing of great beauty and worth, that is, the aboundance of Pearles, which are taken in shel-fishes, and are of a great quantitie, as any that be in the seas neere to the *East-Indies* : so that the true cause of the plenty of Pearle in *Europe*, in this our age, beyond that incomparably which hath beene in the dayes of our forefathers, is to be ascribed to the discouery of these new-found Lands.

There are also here diuers trees, which are not to be found else-where ; and many Rootes, which serue for diuers purposes.

Among other things (whereof there is great plentie in those *Westerne* parts) is the aboundance of Kine and Bulls : whereof they report, that there is such store in *Cuba* and *Hispaniola*, that there are killed downe diuers thousand euery yeere, whereof the *Spaniard* maketh no other vse, but to take the Tallow, or the Hide, which serueth them in their shipping, and for diuers other purposes, but the flesh, of the most part of them, they suffer for to putrifie, as making little account of it ; partly because of the heat of the Country, wherein they eate little flesh,  
and

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and partly because they haue great store of Hennes, and other more dainty meate, wherevpon, together with Fish they doe very much feede.

It may seeme a kinde of miracle vnto him who looketh no higher then the ordinary rules of Nature, and doth not respect the extraordinary and vnlimited power of God: that whereas a great part of *America* doth lie in the *Zona torrida*, in the selfe same climate with *Ethiopia*, and the hottest parts of the *East-Indies*, where the inhabitants are not onely tawny, as all be in *Egypt*, and in *Mauritania*, but also coale-blacke, and very *Negroes*; here there should be no man whose colour is blacke, except it be those which are brought out of *Africa*, but that the people should be of a reasonable faire complexion: which is to be ascribed onely vnto Gods peculiar will, and not to that which some foolishly haue imagined, that the generatiue seede of those people should be white, and that other of the *Ethiopians* blacke, for that is vntrue, in as much as the *Ethiopians* case doth not differ from the qualitie of other men.

The *Spaniards* did finde the people to be here most simple, without fraude, giuing them kinde entertainment, according to their best manner: exchanging for Kniues and Glasse, and such like toyes, great aboundance of Gold and Pearle.

It is certaine, that by the very light of Nature, and by the ordinary course of humane shape, there were among this people very many good things, as affabilitie in their kinde, hospitalitie towards strangers, which had not offended them, according to their abilitie, and open and plaine behauiour; yea, and in some parts of these *West Indies* there was an opinion in grosse, that the Soule was immortall, and that there was life after this life: where beyond certaine Hills (they knew not where) those which died in defence of their Country, should after their



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departure from this life, remaine in much blessednesse; which opinion caused them to beare themselves very valiantly in their fights; either striving to conquer the enemies, or with very good contentment enduring death (if it were their hap to be taken, or slaine) in as much as they promised themselves a better reward else-where: But withall, as it could not choose but be so, there were many other grievous sinnes amongst them, as adoration of Diuels, Sodomie, Incest, and all kinde of Adulterie: Ambition in very high measure; a deadly hatred each to other: which proceeded all from the fountaine of ignorance wherewith *Sathan* had blinded their eyes: yet there were among them some which by a kinde of blinde witchcraft, had to euill purpose, acquaintance and entercourse with foule spirits.

The manner of their attire, or beautifying themselves which diuers of these people had seuerally in seueral parts did seeme very strange vnto them who came first into that Country. For some of them did adorne themselves with the shels of fishes, some did weare Feathers about their heads, some had whole garments made of Feathers, and those very curiously wrought, & placed together of diuers colours; to which purpose, they did most vse the Feathers of Peacockes, or Parrots, or such other Birds, whose couering was of diuers colours. Yea, in very many places they had their lower lips bored through with a great hole, and something put into them, as also into the vpper parts of their eares, being pearced in like manner: which as it seemed in themselves to be a point of beauty, so it made them appeare to other men to be wonderfull vgly.

The quantity of Gold and Siluer which was found in those parts was incredible, which is the true reason wherefore all things in Christendome (as *Bodin de Rep.* obserueth) doe serue to be sold at a higher rate then they were in the daies of our forefathers, when indeede they had not  
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so; for as he noteth, it is the plenty of Gold and Siluer which is brought from this *America*, that maketh Mony to be in greater store, and so may more easily be giuen then it could be in the daies of our predecessors.

But for the thing it selfe, it is testified by all writers that there were in those parts very great Mines of the most precious Mettals, that in the banks of Riuers, with the washing of the water, there was diuers times fretted out very good and big peeces of gold, which without melting or trying, was of reasonable perfection; and the like was to be found in many places of the Land, when the people did dig for their husbandry, or for any other vse.

This made the inhabitants there (for the commonnelle of it) to account Gold and Siluer but as a vile thing, and yet by the reason of the colour of it for varieties sake, to be mingled with the Pearle, diuers of them did weare it about their necks, and about their armes. And yet we doe finde that in some part of the *West-Indies*, the Kings did make some reckoning of Gold, and by fire did try it out to the best perfection, as may appeare by *Attabaliba*, who had a great house piled vpon the sides with great wedges of Gold ready tryed, which he gaue to the *Spaniards* for a ranome of his life, and yet they most perfidiously did take his life from him.

But the meane account ordinarily which the people had of Gold, did cause them very readily to bring vnto the *Spaniards* at their first arriual, great store of that mettall, which they very readily exchanged for the meanest trifles, and gew-gawes, which the other could bring, even such things as wherewith children doe vse to play. But there was nothing more acceptable vnto them, then Axes and Hammers, Kniues, and all tooles of Iron, whereof they rather make account to cut downe their Timber, to frame it, and to doe other such necessaries to their conuenient vse belonging, then to fight, or to doe hurt each to



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the other, and therein may appeare the great varietie of Gods disposition of his creatures here and there; when in all that maine continent of *America*, but especially in that which lieth betweene, or neere the *Tropickes*, there is no Iron or Steele to be found, which without doubt gaue great way to the conquest of the strongest places there, as of *Mexico* by name, when Armed men with Gunnes, and other Instruments of Warre, were to fight against them which were little better then naked: and it was rightly vpbraided by one of his Countymen to *Ferdinandus Cortesius* vpon one of his returnes from *America*, hauing made exceeding boast of his great victories in those parts, and comming afterwards in seruice into *Africke*, where he being hardly laid vnto by the *Moores*, and shewing no valour at all, it was remembred vnto him, that it was an easie thing for him to doe all those exploits which he cracked so much of in the *West-Indies*, in as much as the people there had nothing to resist.

There was nothing more dreadfull to those vnarmed men, then the sight of Horses and men riding vpon them, whereof a very few did quickly ouer-beare many thousands of them, euen almost in the beginning of the discovery of those parts.

*Ferdinandus* and *Elizabeth*, then King and Queene of *Castile*, and after them *Charles* the fift, the Emperor, who succeeded in their right, partly to stirre vp their subiects to action, and partly to procure vnto themselues the more treasure with lesse expence and trouble of their owne, did giue leaue vnto diuers of the Subiects, that by speciall commission they might passe into those parts, and there haue seuerall Quarters and Countries allotted vnto them, where they might dig and try out Gold and Siluer, on condition, that they did allow cleare vnto the King the fift part of such commodities as did arise vnto them; and therefore neare vnto euery Mine and Furnace, the King had

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had his speciall Officers, which did daily attend and take vp his Tribute. And to the end that all things might the better be ordered, both there, and in *Spaine* (concerning the affaires of those Countries) the King caused a Counsell, and Counsell-house, to be newly erected at *Siuill*, where all things should be handled that did grow to any controuersie: and where the intelligences and aduertisements might be laide vp, as in a place of record, which should from time to time be brought out of *America*: Of this Counsell, *Peter Martyr* (who wrote the *Decades*) was one, and continued there till he was very olde; and therefore might vpon the surest instructions set downe these things, which he committed to story.

The desire of gaine caused the *Spaniards* to seeke further into the Countries: but the tyranny and the couetousnesse of the *Spaniards* was such, in taking from them their goods, in deflowring their wiues and daughters; but especially, in forcing them to labour in their Gold Mines without measure, as if they had beene Beasts, that the people detesting them, and the name of Christians for their sakes, did some of them kill themselves, and the mothers destroyed their children in their bellies, that they might not be borne to serue so hatefull a nation: and some of them did in warre conspire against them; so that by slaughter and otherwise, the people of the Countrie are almost all wasted now within a hundred yeares, being before many Millions: and those which remaine are as slaues, and the *Spaniards* almost onely, doe inhabit those parts.

It is not vnknowne to all the parts of *Europe*, that the insolencie of the *Spaniards* is very great, euen ouer *Christians*, tyrannizing and playing all outrages wheresoeuer they get men in subiection, and this maketh them so hatefull to the *Portugals* at home, to the *Italians* in *Milaine* and *Naples*, but especially to the *Low countreymen*, who haue



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haue therefore much desired to shake off the yooke of their gouernour. Besides that, they are men immoderately giuen to the lusts of the flesh, making no conscience (euen at home) euen to get Bastards in their young daies, and reputing it no infamy vnto them to frequent Harlots and Brothelhouses: but when they are abroad, especially in warlike seruices, they are very outrageous, impudently and openly deflowring mens wiues and daughters. It may easily then be guessed what disorders they kept in the *West-Indies*, where the Countries are hot, and the women were not able to resist their insolencies, and how they did tyrannize ouer the poore vnarmed people, making them to drudge for them, not onely like slaues, but bruit beasts: which grosse oversight of theirs, was at the first so apparant, that all of good mindes did complaine thereof, as appeareth by *Peter Martyr* himselfe, who in his writing to the *Pope* and other Princes, doth much deplore the ill vsage of them; who in name were *Christians*, towards those simple Infidels. And certainly it caused many of them to blaspheme the name of God, and of Christ, and to renounce their baptisme, wherunto they were either forced, or intreated, when they measured the God of the Christians by the actions of his seruants, whom they found to be blasphemers and swearers, riotous and great drunkards, rauenous, tyrannous, and oppressors, vn-satiable, couetous, fornicators, beyond measure giuen to incredible wantonnesse, and exercising euen among themselves all kinde of enuie, contention, murthers, poysonings, and all sort of inhumane behauiour.

Not long after the arriual of the *Spaniards* there, there were certaine Fryers and Religious men, who moued with some zeale to draw the people there to the Christian faith, did trauell into those parts, that so they might spreade abroad the Gospell of *Christ*: and when they came

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came there, beholding the intemperance of their Countrymen, which turned many away from the profession of Religion, they were much moved in their hearts, and some of them by writings, and some other of them by trauailing personally back againe into *Spaine*, did informe the King and his Court, how dishonourable a thing it was to the name of *Christ*, that the poore people should be so abused; and how improbable it was that those courses being continued, any of them would hardly embrace the faith.

The earnest Petition of these, caused *Charles* the fift, the Emperour and King of *Spaine*, by his edict and open Proclamation published in the *West-Indies*, to giue liberty vnto the Inhabitants and Naturals of the place, that they should be in state of free-men, and not of bond: but his subiects were so invred proudly to domineere ouer them, that this did little amend the condition of the people.

Since these daies (notwithstanding) the blinde zeale of the *Spaniards* hath beene such, as that the kings haue been at some cost, & other men also haue beene at great charge to erect diuers Monestaries, and Religious Houses there, and many haue taken the paines to goe out of *Europe*, (as they thinke for *Christs* sake) to reside as Monkes and Friars in *America*.

There be established some Bishopricks there, and other gouernments Ecclesiasticall; and the Masse is there published, and Latine seruice, according to the custome of the Church of *Rome*, labouring to roote out their infidelity, but mingling the *Christian* Religion with much Popish superstition.

By reason that the Country is exceeding rich and fruitfull, the *Spaniards* with great desire did spread themselves towards the North, where they found some more resistance, although nothing in comparison of Warriours,

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but the greatest of their labour was, to conquer the kingdom of *Mexico*; which *Mexico*, is a Citie very great, and as populous almost as any in the world; standing in the midst of a great Marsh or Fen. The conquerour of this, was *Ferdinandus Cortesius*, so much renowned, in *Spaine* vnto this day.

If there were any thing at all in these *West-Indies* which might saue of ciuility, or any orderly kinde of government, it was in the Kingdom of *Mexico*; where it appeared vnto the *Spaniards*, that there is a certaine settled state, which was kept within compasse by some decrees and customes of their owne; and which was able to make some resistance (as it may be termed) if it be compared with the other inhabitants of *America*; although little, if it be conferred with the courses of Christendome: But the policie of the *Spaniards* was, that by priuie meanes they came to vnderstand of a King that confined neare vpon *Mexico*, who as he was of good strength, so was he of exceeding malice towards these his borderers, and by his forces and intelligence, *Ferdinandus Cortesius*, and his companie came to haue their will vpon *Mexico*.

In this Country there standeth a very great Lake, which at the one end is very large & almost round; but towards the other end doth contract it selfe again into a narrower roome, and then spreadeth wide againe and round, onely about the third part of the compasse of the greater end. In the lesser of the two, there are set some Houses in foure or five seuerall places, which represent our Villages; but in the greater part of the lake, standeth *Mexico* it selfe, being a Citie built of Bricke, to a good & elegant proportion, where the water issueth into diuers streets of it, as it is in *Venice*, and from some part whereof there are diuers Bridges vnto the maine Land, made also of Bricke: but from the other sides men doe come by Boates, whereof there is abundant store continually going in that Lake.

The

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The Writers doe record, that there is to be found in this Citie abundance of all kinde of prouision, but especially Fruits, and other delightfull things, which are brought in from other parts of the Country.

This was the chiefe Citie of all those quarters, before the arriuall of the *Spaniards* there, and in subiection therevnto were many large prouinces, extending themselves euery way: so that the King of this place, was a Prince of great estate: and accordingly thereunto, the *Spaniards* at this day haue made it their chiefe and royall Citie, where the King keepeth his vizeroy of *Mexico* for the West *Indies*, as he hath his Vizeroy at *Goa* for the East *Indies*: but from thence haue all the parts of *America* (but especially that which they call *Hispania noua*) their directions, and hence they fetch their Lawes, Ordinances, and determinations, vnlesse it be such great causes as are thought fit to be referred to the Countell of *Spaine*.

The Sea which confineth neereſt vnto this Citie, is called the gulph of *Mexico*: where, as in diuers other Bayes or Gulphes, the streame or current is such that ships cannot passe directly too and fro, but especially out of the gulphe, but they are forced to take their course either high to the North, or low to the South.

In and neare vnto this gulph are diuers *Ilands*, conquered and inhabited by the *Spaniards*, as the fore-named *Cuba*, and *Hispaniola*, where the *Spaniards* were visited by our *English*, in the time of *Queene Elizabeth*, and their townes of *Sancto Domingo*, and *Saint Iago*, taken by *Sir Frances Drake*, as also *Iarnaica*, and *Boriquen*, otherwise called the *Iland of Saint Phi*, where the Earle of *Cumberland* tooke the towne of *Porto-Ricco*, and many other *Ilands* of lesse note.

In the Sea coasts of all this *Noua Hispania*, the Kings of *Spaine* haue built many Townes and Castles, and therein haue erected diuers Furnaces and forges, for the trying




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and fining of their Gold.

They that doe write of the discouery of the West *Indies*, doe report, that when *Columbus* at the first went thitherward, in their greatest distraction and doubtfulnesse of minde, whether to goe forward or backward: and *Columbus* had begged onely two or three daies respite, there was one of his company, who after the Sea manner going vp to discouer the Land, did espie some fire: for the which, being so happy and lucky a token, he did hope to receiue at the hands of the King of *Spaine*, some bountifull reward: but when he returned home, there was nothing at all giuen vnto him, which he tooke with that malecontentednesse and disdaine, that he fled ouer into *Africa*, and there among the *Mores*, did apostatate and renounce the Christian faith, so that he became a *Sarazen*.

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## Of the parts of America towards the North.

 He rumour of the discouery of these parts being blown ouer Christendome: and the great quantity of the Land, together with the fruitfulness thereof, being reported abroad, some other nations did enterprize to set foote therein: as namely the *French men*, who sent certaine Ships to a part of this Country, lying North from *Hispania noua* some few degrees, without the *Tropicke of Cancer*; into which when they had ariued, because of the continuall greenesse of the ground and trees: (as if it had beene a perpetuall spring) they called it *Florida*: where after some few of them had for a time serled themselves, the *Spaniards* tooke notice of it, and being vnwilling to endure any such

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such neighbours, they came sodainely on them and most cruelly slew them all, without taking any ranfome. And the *French* in reuenge of this deepe of the *Spaniards*, came in againe afterwards into this Country, and slew those that were the slayers of their Country-men. Yet the *Spaniards*, for want of men, are not able to inhabite that Country, but leaue it to the old people.

The *French* had built in *Florida* vpon the riuer of *Mayo*, where they were visited by our *Sir Iohn Hawkins*, a fort, which they called fort *Carolin*, and had reasonably assured themselves for their defence against the natives: but some malicious spirits amongst them fled to the *Spaniards*, with whom they returned againe into *Florida* to the murther and ouerthrow of their owne Countrymen.

He who list to see both the attempt of the *Frenchmen* for the inhabiting of that part, and the vsage of the *Spaniards* towards them; let him reade the *Expedition into Florida*, which is the end of *Benzo* his story concerning the *New found World*; and there he shall finde both the couetous and insatiable nature of the *Spaniards*; who would not endure the *French* neare vnto them, although there was Land sufficient, and much to spare for both of them; also their perfidiousnesse in breaking of Oathes and promises, and their vnchristian cruelty, whereby they massacred all.

The *Spaniards* also to the number of three hundred foote, and two hundred horse, vnder the conduct of *Ferdinando de Soto*, entred *Florida*, about the yeare of the Lord 1550. and there conquered a thousand miles wide and large, and after foure or five yeares continuance in that Country, betooke themselves againe from thence, and went to new *Spaine*, banding at *Panuc* in ships and vessels that they had built in *Florida*. And in all that time notwithstanding many conflicts with the natives, and



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divers discommodities and wants which they sustained in the Country, they lost but two hundred men.

After this departure of the *Spaniards* out of *Florida*, brought thither by *Ferdinando de Soto*, who died in the Country: after the defeat of the *French*, and their revenge againe taken on the *Spaniards*, the King of *Spaine* sent thither some small forces to take possession of the Country, and set downe there; for no other end as it is thought, but to keepe out other nations from entring there; the one halfe whereof set downe on the River of *Saint Augustine*, and the other halfe a dosen leagues from thence to the Northward, at a place by them called *Saint Helena*.

In the yeare 1586. as *Sir Francis Drake* came coasting along from *Cartagena*, a cite in the maine land, to which he put over, and tooke it after he departed from *Sancto Domingo*, when the mortality that was amongst our *English* had made them to giue over their enterprise, to goe with *Nombrede Dios*, and so over land to *Pannania*, thereto haue stricken the stroake for the treasure; as he was on the coast of *Florida*, in the height of 30. our men descried on the shore a place built like a Beacon, which was made for men to discover to Sea ward: so coming to the Shore, they marched along the Rivers side, till they came to a fort built all of whole trees, which the *Spaniards* called the fort of *Saint Iohn*, where the King entertained halfe his forces that he then had in that Country, which were an hundred and fiftie Souldiers; the like number being at *Saint Helena*, all of them vnder the government of *Petro Melendez*, Nephew to the Admirall *Melendez*, that a fiftene or sixteene yeares before had beene to bring with our *English* in the bay of *Mexico*; this fort our *English* tooke, and not farre from thence the Towne also of *Saint Augustine* vpon the same river, where resolving to vndertake also the enterprise of *Saint Helena*; when

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when they came to the hauens mouth where they should enter, they durst not for the dangerous shoals: wherefore they forsooke the place, coasting along to *Virginia*, where they tooke in *Mr. Ralph Lane* and his company, and so came into *England*, as you shall heare when we speake of *Virginia*.

In these Northerne parts of *America*, but especially within the maine Continent, some haue written (but how truely I cannot tell) that there is a Sea, which hath no entercourse at all with the Ocean: so that if there be any third place beside the *Mare Caspium*, and the *Mare Mortuum* in *Palestina*, which retaineth in it selfe great saltnelle and yet minglcth not with the other Seas, it is in these countries.

There is also in new *Spaine* a great salt lake, as big or bigger then the dead sea of *Palestine*, in the midst of which stands the great citie of *Tenustitan*, or *Mexico*, the Mistris or imperiall citie of those parts; & on the bankes or sides of that lake, many other Cities also beside, which, though they are but little in comparison of the greatnes of *Tenustitan*, yet of themselues are great. This *Tenustitan* is supposed to consist of 60. thousand houses, as you may reade in the 3. Chap of the 5. of the *Decades*: & this citie standing in the midst and center of this salt lake, goe which way you will from the continent to the Citie, it is at least a league and an halfe or two leagues, on the lake vnto it: some of the other cities are said to be of thirty, some of fortie thousand houses: the names of these are *Mesiqualingo*, *Coluacana*, *Wichilabasco*, *Iztapalapa*, and others: the lake though it be in the midst of the land, hath his *fluxus & refluxus*, his ebbing and flowing, like the Sea, and yet seuentie leagues distant from the sea.

But certaine it is, that towards the South of these parts which is the Northerne part of *Hispania Noua*, aboue *Mexico*, there is a burning Hill, which oftentimes breaketh



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keth out into flames, as *Vrsuvius* in *Campania* did in the time of the elder *Pliny*; and as *Aetna* hath done many ages since and before.

*Peter Martir* in his 5. of his *Decades* saith, that eight leagues from *Tenustitan* or *Mexico*, as *Ferdinando Cortes* went thither from the *Chiurute Calezthere*, is a Hill called of the inhabitants *Popecatepeque*, as much to say, as smoakie mountaine; at the top whereof there is a hole of a league and a halfe wide, out of which are cast fire and stones, with whirle windes; and that the thicknesse of the ashes lying about the hill is very great. It is reported also elsewhere of this hill, that the flames and ashes thereof oft times destroy the fields and gardens thereabouts. When *Cortes* went by it, he sent ten *Spaniards*, with guides of the Country, to see and make report thereof vnto him, two of which ten venturing further then the rest, saw the mouth of this fiery gulfe at the hills top, and had they not happily soone returned towards their fellows, and sheltered themselves vnder a rocke on the side of the hill, such a multitude of stones were cast out with the flame, that by no meanes they could haue escaped.

The *Englishmen* also, desirous by Navigation to adde something vnto their owne Country, as before time they had trauailed toward the farthest North-part of *America*; so lately finding that part which lieth betweene *Florida* and *Noua Francia* was not inhabited by any Christians, and was a Land fruitfull and fit to plant in: they sent thither two seuerall times, two seuerall companies, as Colonies, to inhabit that part, which in remembrance of the Virginitie of their Queene, they called *Virginia*. But this voyage being enterprised vpon by private men, and being not thoroughly followed by the State, the possession of this *Virginia*, for that time was discontinued, and the Country left to the old inhabitants.

There

## *Of the Northerne parts of America.*

There were some *English* people, who after they had vnderstood the calmnes of the Climate, and goodnes of the Soyle, did vpon the instigation of some Gentlemen of *England*, voluntarily offer themselues, euen with their wiues and children, to goe into those parts to inhabite; but when the most of them came there (vpon some occasions) they returned home againe the first time, which caused that the second yeare, there was a great company transported thither, who were prouided of many necessities, and continued there ouer a whole winter, vnder the guiding of *M. Lane*: but not finding any sustenance in the Country (which could well brooke with their nature, and being too meanelly prouided of Corne and victuals from *England*, they had like to haue perished with famine; and therefore thought themselues happy when *Sir Francis Drake*, comming that way from the *Westerne Indies*, would take them into his ships, and bring them home into their natiue Country. Yet some there were of those *English*, which being left behinde, ranged vp & down the Country (and houering about the Sea coast) made meanes at last (after their enduring much misery) by some Christian ships to be brought back againe into *England*.

While they were there inhabiting, there were some children borne, and baptized in those parts, and they might well haue endured the Country, if they might haue had such strength as to keepe off the inhabitants from troubling them in tilling the ground, and reaping such corne as they would haue sowed.

Againe in the daies of our now reigning soueraigne, in the yeare of our Lord 1606. the *English* planted themselues in *Virginia*, vnder the degrees 37. 38. 39. where they doe to this day continue, and haue built three Townes and forts, as namely *James-towne* and *Henrico*; fort *Henricke*, and fort *Charles*, with others, which they hold and inhabite; sure retreats for them against the force of the  
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natiues, and reasonable secured places against any power that may come against them by Sea.

In the same height, but a good distance from the coast of *Virginia*, lyeth the Iland called by the *Spaniards*, *La Bermuda*, but by our *English* the *Summer islands*, which of late is inhabited also by our Country-men.

North-ward from them on the Sea coast, lieth *Norumbega*, which is the South part of that which the *French-men* did, without disturbance of any Christian, for a time possesse. For the *French-men* did discover a large part of *America*, toward the circle *Articke*, and did build there some Townes, & named it of their own Country *Nova Francia*.

As our *English men* haue aduentured very farre for the discovery of new found-lands; so with very great labour and diligence they attempted to open something higher then *Nova Francia*: and therefore with some Ships they did passe thither, and entred vpon the Land, from whence they brought some of the people, whose countenance was very tawny, and dusky; which commeth not by any heate, but by the great cold of the Climate, chilling and pricking them: but the digestion and stomacke of these people is very good, in so much that like vnto the *Tartares* and some other Northren nation, their feeding was (for the most part) vpon raw meate, their manners otherwise being barbarous, and sutable to their diet.

They had little Leatherne Boates, wherein they would fish neare the brinckes of the Sea, and at their pleasure would carry them from place to place on their backs.

Notwithstanding all their paines there taken, it was a great error and ignorance in our men, when they supposed that they should finde good store of Gold-mines in those quarters: for the country is so cold, that it is not possible to finde there any full concoction of the Sunne, to breede and worke such a metall within the ground: and therefore howsoeuer they brought home some store of earth

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earth, which they supposed to be Oare, & of shining stones, yet when it came to the tryall, it proued to be nothing worth, but verified the Prouerbe, *All is not Gold that glisters.*

In very many parts of these Northerne Countries of *America*, there is very fit and opportune fishing, some pretty way within the Sea, and therefore diuers nations of *Europe*, doe yearely send Fishers thither, with shipping and great store of Salt: where when they haue taken Fish and dried it, and salted it at the Land, they bring it home into *Christendome*, and vter it commonly by the name of *New-found-land-Fish*.

The *English* about the yeare 1570. did aduenture farre for to open the North-parts of *America*, and sailed as far as the very circle *Artick*; hoping to haue found a passage by the North to the *Moluccoes*, & to *China*, which hitherto, neither by the North of *Asia*, nor by the North of *America*, could be effected by them, by reason of the very great colde and Ice in the Climate.

The rest of the Iland (being a huge space of earth) hath not hitherto, by any *Christian*, to any purpose bene discovered, but by those neare the Sea coasts, it may be gathered that they all which doe there inhabite, are men rude and vnciuill, without the knowledge of God. Yet on the Northwest part of *America*, some of our *Englishmen* going through the Straites of *Magellane*, and passing towards the North by *Hispania Noua*, haue touched on a Country, where they haue found good entertainment, and the king thereof yeelded himselfe to the subiection of the Queene of *England*: whereupon they tearmed it *Noua Albion*.

*Sir Francis Drake*, who toucht vpon that Country, and for some pretty time had his aboad there, doth report in his voyage, that the Country is very good, yeelding much store of diuers Fruits, delightfull both to the eye and taste: and that the people are apt inough by hospitality to yeeld fauour and entertainment to strangers: but it is added



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withall, that they are marueilously addicted to Witchcraft and Adoration of Diuels; from which they could not be perswaded to abstaine euen in the very presence of our Countrymen.

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When the *Portugals* had first begun their Navigation by *Africke* into the *East-Indies*, some of them intending to haue held their course Eastward vnto *Caput bona spei*, were driuen so farre Westward by tempest, that they landed in a large and great Country, which by a generall name is called *Brasilia*: where they began to enter traffique, and with Townes and Castles to plant themselues, before that the *Spaniard* had discovered *Peru*, which is the South part of *America*. So that at this day, whatsoeuer the King of *Spaine* hath in *Brasilia*, it is in right of the Crowne of *Portugall*.

We may reade in *Guicciardine*, how when the *Spaniards* towards the West, and the *Portugals* towards the East had discryed many New-found-lands, there grew great contention betwene them, what should be appropriated vnto the one, and what might be seized on by the other: therefore for the better establishing of peace amongst them, they had both recourse vnto *Alexander* the 6. who was *Pope* in the yeare 1492. and somewhat before, and after: and he taking on him (after the proud manner of the Bishops of *Rome*) to dispose of it, which belonged not vnto him, did set downe an order betweene them; which was, that all the degrees of longitude, being 360. in the Globe, being diuided into two parts, the *Spaniards* should take one, & the *Portugals* the other: so that in this diuision they

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they were to begin in those degrees, vnder which some of *Peru* standeth; from the which they counting forward towards the East, did allow *Brasilia*, and 180. degrees to the *Portugals* Eastward, and so from *Brasilia* Westward to the *Spaniards* as many: so that he had in his portion all *America* except *Brasilia*.

This Country is large, hauing in it many people, and seuerall Kingdomes, which are not all possessed by the *Portugals*; but so, that other *Christians*, as namely the *French-men*, being driuen out of their Country for Religion, haue set foot in there, though afterwards againe they haue abandoned it.

What the *Portugals* doe at this day in *Brasilia*, I know not; but it is likely now, that whatsoever there is held by the *Christians*, is reputed to be vnder the *Spaniards*, as many other parts of *Brasile* promiscuously are: yet certaine it is, that now almost fortie yeares since, some of the *French-men*, which promised sincere religion, and could not then be suffered quietly to liue in *France*, did prouide certaine shipping, and vnder the conduct of one *Villagagno* a Knight of *Malta*, but their owne Countreman, did goe thither, and continued there by the space of one yeare, hauing Ministers and Preachers amongst them, and the exercise of the word and Sacraments: But after, by the euill counsell of some of the chiefe Rulers of *France*, which were addicted vnto the *Pope*, the hart of *Villagagno* was draw ne away, insomuch that he contumeliously vling the Pastors and chiefe of that company, did force them to retire into *France*: so that the habitation there was then vterly relinquished, and hath not since beene continued by any of the *French*.

There is a learned man, one *Iohannes Lyrens*, who was in their voyage, and hath written a Tract, called *Navigatio in Brasiliam*, which is very well worth the reading, not onely to see what did befall him and his company, but what the



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manners of that people, with whom they did conuerse. The Inhabitants here are men also vtterly vnlearned; but men more ingenious then the common sort of the *Americans*; goodly of body, & straight of proportion, going alwaies naked; reasonable good warriors after their country fashion, vsing to eat such enemies as they take in the warres, that afterwards they may deuoure them, which they doe with great pleasure. For diuers of the people of those quarters, as the *Caribees*, and the *Cannibals*, and almost all, are eaters of mans flesh.

In this Country groweth abundance of that Wood which since is brought into *Europe*, to die red colors, and is of the place whence it commeth called *Brasil* wood; the trees whereof are exceeding great.

The people of *Brasil*, where *Lyrius* and his fellowes liued, are called by the name of *Touuoupinam baltij*, by description of whose qualities, many things may be learned concerning the rest of the inhabitants neere there about.

First then, they haue no letters among them, & yet seeme to be very capable of any good vnderstanding: as appeared by the speech of some of them, reprobuing the *Frenchmen* for their great greedinesse and couetousnes of gaine, when they would take so much paines, as to come from another end of the world to get commodities there.

Their computation is onely by the Sunne and Moone, who they hold to be of a diuine nature: and although they know nothing truely concerning God, yet they haue a darke opinion that the Soule doth liue after the separation from the body.

The men and women throughout the whole Country doe goe starke naked, euen very few of them hauing any thing on to couer their priuities, onely some of them doe pull some kinde of ornaments through their eares, & the most of them haue their lower lip boared through with a great hole, therein putting some deuice or other.

They

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They looke very disguisedly, but they are all wonderfull straight of lim and proportion, insomuch that the Author writeth, that in all the time wherein he liued among them, he saw not one crooked backe, or mishapen in any part: whereof seeking to giue a reason, he ascribeth it to this, that their children are neuer swathed, nor bound about with any thing when they are first borne, but are put naked into the bed with their Parents to lie; which beds are deuised of Cotten wooll, and hung vp betweene two trees not farre from the ground, in the which flaggging downe in the middle, men and their wiues and their children doe lie together.

But whether this be the true reason of the straightnes of their bodies, it may be doubted, from the authority of *S. Hierome*, who in one of his Treatises mentioning that the children of the noblest and greatest *Romanes* in his time, were very crooked, when other which were bred of meaner parents were not so: imputeth it to this cause, that the Gentlewomen of *Rome*, in a kinde of wantonnesse, did not suffer their infants to be so long swathed, as poorer people did, and that thereby their ioynnts and members not being tyed and restrained within compasse, did flie out of proportion.

Certainely howsoeuer there may be some reasons naturally giuen of these things, it is much to be ascribed to the immediate will of God, who giueth and taketh away beauty at his pleasure.

The men of these parts are very strong, and able of body, and therefore either giue sound strokes with their clubs wherewith they fight, or else shoote strong shootes with their bowes, wherof they haue plenty, & if any of them be taken in the wars (after they haue beene crammed of purpose to be eaten of their enemies) they are brought forth to execution, where marueilous willingly they doe yeeld themselves to death, as supposing that nothing can be  
more



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more honourable vnto them then to be taken, and to die for their Country. He therefore who is to kill the other, doth with very much insolency & pride insult ouer him, which is to be slaine: saying, thou art he which wouldst haue spoyled and destroyed vs and ours, but now I am to recompence thee for thy paines: and the other without all feare replies? Yea I am hee that would haue done it, and would haue made no spare, if I had prospered in mine intent, and other such futable words, shewing their resolution to conquer, or willingly to die in the common cause of themselves and their people. It is strange to see the inhumane and vnnaturall custome which many of the people of the West Indies haue, for there are whole Ilands full of such Canibals as doe eate mans flesh; and among the rest these *Tououpinambaty* are famous that way, who when they are disposed to haue any great meeting, or to haue any solemne feast, they kill some of their aduersaries, whom they keepe in store for that purpose, and cutting him out into Collops, which they call *Baucan*, they will lay them vpon the coales, and for diuers daies together make great mirth in deuouring them: wherein they haue this fashion, very strange, that so long as they are in their eating banquet, although it continue diuers daies, they doe neuer drinke at all, but afterwards, when they are disposed to fall to drinking of a certaine liquor which they haue amongst them, they will continue bousing at it for two or three whole daies, and in the meane time neuer eate. In many parts both of *Hispania noua*, and *Peru*, as also in the Ilands neare adioyning, they haue an hearbe, whereof they make great vse; of which some is brought into diuers parts of *Europe*, vnder the name of *Tobacco patum*, or *Nicosiana*, although we haue also much counterfeite of the same: the people of those parts doe vse it as Phylicke to purge themselves of humors, and they apply it also to the filling of themselves, the smoake of it being receiued through a leafe,

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leafe, or some such hollow thing, into the nostrils, head & stomacke, & causing the party which receiueth it, to lie as if he were drunk or dead for a space, needing no food or nourishment in the meane while. Wherof it cannot be denied, but that it is possible, that by prescript of Physicke, it may be seruiceable for some purposes among vs, although that also it be very disputable, in as much as they who speake most highly of it, must and doe confesse that the force of it is obtusefactiue, and no other, wherby it produceth his owne effects; and wise men should be wary and sparing in receiuing of such things. But when we doe consider the vain & wanton vse which many of our country-men haue of late taken vp in receiuing of this *Tobacco*, not onely many times in a day, but euen at meate, and by the way, to the great waste both of their purse & of their bodies, we may well deplore the vanitie of the nation, who thereby propose themselves as ridiculous to the *French*, and other our neighbours. And certainly, if it were possible that our worthy, warlike, & valiant progenitors, might behold their manners, (who doe most delight therein,) they would wonder what a generation had succeeded in their roomes; who addict themselves to so fond, and worse then effeminate a passion.

*Benzo*, who liued among them of the *West-Indies*, doth call the smell of it a *Tartarus* & hellish sauour: And whosoever looketh into those Books, which our *Christians* traueilling thither haue written, concerning those *West-Indies*, shall finde that the inhabitants there, doe vse it most as a remedy against that which is called *Lues Venerea*, whereunto many of them are subiect, being vncleane in their conuersation: and that not onely in fornication and adultery with Women, but also their detestable and execrable sinne of *Sodomie*.

After that the *Spaniards* had for a time possessed *Hispania Nona*, for the desire of Gold and Pearle, some of them



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trauailed, towards the South: and as by water they found the Sea West-ward from *Peru*, which is alwaies very calme, and is by them called the South-Sea, as the other wherein *Cuba* standeth is tearmed the North-Sea, so by land they found that huge & mightie Country, which is called *Peru*; wherein the people are (for the most part) very barbarous, and without God; men of great stature, yea, some of them farre higher then the ordinary sort of men in *Europe*; vsing to shoote strongly with Bowes made of Fish-bones, and most cruell people to their enemies.

Our *English* people, who haue trauailed that way, doe in their writings confesse that they saw vpon the South of *Peru* very huge & tall men, who attempting vpon them when they put to land for fresh water, were much frighted with their Gunnes, or else doubtlesse had offered violence vnto them; which our men fearing, got them away as speedily as they could.

There was one *Petrus de Cieca*, a *Spaniard*, who when he had trauailed two & twenty yeares, returned back again into *Europe*, and wrote an excellent Booke of the Discovery of that whole Country. And hee amongst other things doth record, that there are found in some parts of *Peru*, very huge and mighty bones of men, that had beene Gyants, who dwelt and were buried there.

Amongst these, the *Spaniards* (partly by force, but especially by perfidious treason) did get infinite sums of gold and Pearls, wherwith being allured, they hoped for more by reason that a great part thereof lyeth vnder the *Zona Torrida*, and that caused them to spread themselves here and there, as farre as they durst in the Country; where in some places they digged Gold out of the earth; and in some other, they found it ready digged and tryed vnto their handes by the people of the Country, which had vsed that trade before their comming thither.

Among other creatures which are very famous in this  
*Peru*,

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*Peru*, there is a little beast called *Cincia*, which is no bigger then a Foxe, the tayle whereof is long, the feet short, & the head like a very Foxe, which hath a bag hanging vnder her belly, wherinto she doth vse to put her yong, when she seeth them in danger of any hunter or passenger.

That *Petrus de Cieca* (of whom mention was made before) telleth that himselfe saw one of them, which had no lesse then seauen yong ones lying about her; but as soon as she perceiued that a man was comming neare vnto her, she presently got them into her bag, & ran away with such incredible swiftnesse as one would not haue imagined.

After the *Spaniards* had conquered *Mexico*, they discovered *Peru*, traouailing towards the South, and as they preuailed against the *Mexicans*, taking part with an enemy neighbour; so finding two brothers struing in *Peru*, *Gnascar* and *Attabaliba*, they so demeaned themselues in their difference that they ruind both, and got there incredible store of Gold.

The first that attempted against the *Peruvians* and destroyed their Kings, were *James* of *Almagra*, and the two brothers of *Pizarres*: but dealing trecherously and cruelly with the *Peruvians*, they long enioyed not their victory, but all of them died a violent death.

The people of *Peru* are in many places much wiser then those of *Cuba*, *Hispaniola*, & some other parts of the Continent where the *Spaniards* first landed, and therefore they haue some orders and solemne customes among them; as among the rest, they doe burie their dead with obseruable ceremonies, laying vp their bodies with great solemnity into a large house prepared for that purpose.

They haue also in one Prouince there a custome of carrying of Newes & Messages very speedily, to the end that the King & gouernor of the Country may presently take aduertisement of any thing which falleth out: and this is not on Horsebacke, or by the Dromidary, or Elke, as they



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vse in other places, but only by men who passe ouer Rocks and through Bushes the next way; and in certaine set places there be alwayes fresh Postes to carry that farther which is brought to them by the other.

The *Spaniards* haue here and there scatteringly vpon the Sea coasts set vp some Townes and Castles, but are not able to possesse almost any thing of the Land: neither haue they as yet discovered the inward parts thereof, though daily they spread themselves more and more; in so much that it is supposed that within these seauen yeares last past, they haue gotten into *Guiana*, where in former time no strength of that nation hath beene.

*Guiana* is a Country which lieth to the North-sea, in the same height as *Peru* to the South (as it is described) about 5. degrees from the *Equinoctiall*, and that (as I take it) towards the South.

The Country is supposed to be exceeding rich, & to haue in it many Mines of Gold (which haue not yet been touched, or at the least but very lately; and to be exceeding fertile; & delightfull otherwise, although it lie in the heat of *Zona Torrida*: but there is such store of Riuers & Freshwaters in euery part therof, and the soile it selfe hath such correspondency thereunto, that it is reported to be as Greene and pleasant to the eye, as any place in the world.

Some of our *English-men* did with great labour & danger, passe by water into the hart of the country, & earnestly desired that some forces of the *English* might be sent thither, and a Colony erected there: But by reason of the distance of the place and the great hazard, that if it should not succede well, it might proue dishonorable to our nation; and withall, because the *Spaniards* haue great companies and strength, although not in it, yet many wayes about it, that intendment was discontinued.

In diuers parts of this *Peru*, and neare vnto *Guiana*, there are very many great Riuers; which as they are fit  
for

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for any Nauigation that should be attempted to goe vp within the land, so otherwise they must needs yeeld health and fruitfulness to those that inhabite there. The greatest of these Riuer is that which some call *Oregliana*, or the Riuer of the *Amazones*. And next is the Riuer *Maragnone*, and down towards *Magellane Straights Rio de la Plata*: and our *English-men* doe speake of the Riuer *Orinoque*: In the greatest of which, this is famous, that for a good space after they haue runne into the maine Sea, yea, some write twenty or thirty Miles, they keepe themselves vnmixt with the salt water, so that a very great way within the Sea, men may take vp as fresh water, as if they were neere the Land.

The first of our Nation that sailed to *Guiana*, and made report thereof vnto vs, was *Sir Walter Raleigh*, who traualled far vp into the Country vpon the Riuer *Orinoque*: after him, one or two voyages thither did captaine *Kemish* make, and now lately captaine *Harcourt*, with others, haue visited that Country, where our men continued the space of three or foure yeares, being kindly intreated of the natiues, who much desire them to come and make some plantation amongst them, hoping by them to be defended against the *Spaniards*, whom they greatly hate & feare.

When *Sir Walter Raleigh* came to *Guiana*, he ouerthrew the *Spaniards* that were in *Trinidado*, and tooke *Bereo* their Captaine or Generall prisoner: he loosed and set at liberty foure or fve Kings of the people of that Countrie, that *Bereo* kept in chaines, and sent them home to their owne: which deede of his did winne him the hearts of that people, and make them much to fauour our *English* at this day.

Diuers also of that Country, which amongst them are men of note haue beene brought ouer into *England*, and here liuing many yeeres, are by our men brought home to their owne Country; whose reports and knowledge



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of our nation is a cause that they haue beene well intreated of these *Guianians*, and much desired to plant themselves among them.

Our men that traualled to *Guiana*, amongst other things most memorable, did report, & in writing deliuered to the world, that neare vnto *Guiana*, and not farre from those places, where themselves were, there were men without heads; which seemed to maintaine the opinion to be true which in old time was conceiued by the Historians and Philosophers, that there were *Acephali*, whose eies were in their breasts, and the rest of their face there also situated: and this our *English* Trauellers haue reported to be so ordinarily and confidently mentioned vnto them in those parts where they were, that no sober man should any way doubt of the truth thereof.

Now because it may appeare that the matter is but fabulous, in respect of the truth of Gods creating of them, and that the opinion of such strange shapes and monsters as were said to be in old time, that is, men with heads like Dogs, some with eares downe to their ankles, others with one huge foote alone, wherupon they did hop from place to place, was not worthy to be credited: although *Sir Iohn Mandeuill* of late age, fondly hath seemed to giue credit and authority thereunto; yea, & long since, he who tooke vpon him the name of *S. Augustine*, in writing that counterfeit Book *Ad fratres in Eremo*: It is fit that the certainty of the matter concerning these in *Peru*, should be known: and that is, that in *Quinbais*, & some other parts of *Peru*, the men are borne as in other places, and yet by deuises which they haue, after the birth of Children, when their bones and gristles, & other parts are yet tender and fit to be fashioned, they doe crush down the heads of the Children vnto the breasts and shoulders; & doe with frames of wood & other such deuises, keep them there, that in time they grow continue to the vpper part of the trunk of the

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the body, and so seeme to haue no necks or heads. And againe, some other of them thinking that the shape of the head is very decent, if it be long and erect after the fashion of a Sugar-loafe, doe frame some other to that forme, by such wooden instruments, as they haue for that purpose, and by binding & swathing them to keepe them so afterwards. And that this is the custome of those people, and that there is no other matter in it, *Petrus de Cieca*, who trauailed almost all ouer *Peru*, & is a graue & sober writer, in his description of those Countries, doth report.

There be in some parts of *Peru*, people which haue a strange deuice for the catching of diuers sorts of Fowles, wherein they especially desire to take such as haue their feathers of pied, orient, & various colours: and that not so much for the flesh of them, which they may eate, as for their feathers, whereof they make Garments, either short, as cloakes, or as Gownes, long to the ground, and those their greatest Nobles do weare, being curiously wrought, and by order, as appeareth by some of them being brought into *England*.

And here by this mention of Feathers, it is not amisse to specifie, that in the Sea which is the Ocean lying betwixt *Europe* and *America*, there be diuers flying Fishes, yet whose wings are not of Feathers, but a thinne kinde of skinne, like the wings of a Bat or Reare-mouse: and these liuing sometimes in the water, and flying sometimes in the ayre, are well accepted in neither place: for below, either rauens Fishes are ready to deuoure them: or aboue, the Sea-fowles are continually beating at them.

Some of the *Spaniards* desirous to see how far this land of *Peru* did goe towards the South, trauailed down, till at length they found the lands end, and a little straight or narrow Sea, which did runne from the maine Ocean towards *Africke* into the South-sea,

One *Magellanus* was he, that found this Straight, and  
although



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although it be dangerous, passed through it, so that of his name it is called *Fretum Magellanicum*, or *Magellane Straights*.

And this is the way, whereby the *Spaniards* doe passe to the backside of *Peru*, and *Hispania Noua*; and whosoeuer will compasse the whole world (as some of our *English-men* haue done) he must of necessitie (for any thing that is yet knowne) passe through this narrow Straight.

*Ferdinandus Magellanus*, hauing a great minde to trauaile, and being very desirous to goe vnto the *Molucco* Ilands by some other way, then by the backside of *Africke*, if it might be, did in the yeare 1520. set forth from *Seuilla* in *Spaine* with five Ships, and trauailed towards the West *Indies*, and went so farre downeward towards the South, as that he came to the Landend, where he holding on his course, in a narrow passage towards the West, for the space of diuers dayes, did at the length, peaceably passe through the Straights, and came into a great Sea, which some after his name, doe call *Mare Magellanicum*, some others *Mare Pacificum*, because of the great calmnes and quietnesse of the waters there; but most commonly it is termed the South Sea; the length wherof he passed in the space of three Moneths & twenty dayes, and came vnto the *Moluccoes*, where being set vpon by the East-Indian people, himselfe and many of his company were slaine: and yet one of his ships (as the *Spaniards* doe write) called *Victoria*, did get away from those *Moluccoes*, and returning by the *Cape bona Spei*, on the South-side of *Africke*, came safe vnto *Spaine*.

So that it may be truely said, that if not *Magellanus*, yet some of his company were the first that did euer compasse the World, through all the degrees of longitude.

*Iohannes Lyrius*, in the end of his Booke *De Nauigatione in Brasiliam*, doth tell that *Sir Francis Drake* of *England*, when he passed through *Magellane Straights*, and so to  
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the *Molucco* Ilands, & then homeward from the East by *Africke*, did in a deuice giue the Globe of the Earth with this word or Motto, *Primus me circumdedisti*: which is not simply to be vnderstood that neuer any had gone round the World before him, but that neuer any of fame: for *Magellane* himselfe was slaine (as before is noted) or else he did doubt of the truth of that narration, that the Ship called *Victoria*, did returne with safety into *Spaine*.

The Maps which were made at first, concerning *America* and *Peru*, did so describe the Westerne part of *Peru*, as if when a man had passed *Magellane* Straights, and did intend to come vpward towards *Noua Hispania*, on the farther side, he must haue borne much West, by reason that the land did shoot out with a very great Promontory, and bending that way.

But our *English men* which went with *Sir Francis Drake*, did by their owne experience certainly find that the Land from the vtermost end of the Straights on *Peru* side, did goe vp toward the South directly, without bending to the West; and that is the cause wherfore all the new Maps and Globes, especially made by the *English*, or by the *Dutch*, who haue taken their directions from our men, are reformed according to this new obseruation.

When the *Spaniards* had once found an ordinary passage from the South Sea towards the *Moluccoes*, they neuer ceased to trauaile that way, and discover more and more: and by that meanes they haue found out diuers Ilands not knowne in former ages; as two for example sake, a good distance from the *Moluccoes*, which because they be inhabited by men which do steale not onely each from other, but doe pilfer away all things that they can from such strangers as doe land there abouts, they are called *Insula Latronum*.

They haue also descried some other nearer vnto the East Indies; which they now tearme *Insula Solomonis*. But the



## Of the Countries neere the two Poles.


most renowned of all, are those of whom the name is given *Philippine*, in remembrance of *Philip* the second King of *Spaine*, at whose cost they were discovered.

These *Philippine*, are very rich, and from thence is yearly brought abundance of all costly Spices, and some other rich merchandise; yea, and gold too.

There were also some other Islands descried by *Magellanus* himselfe, which he called *Insulas infortunatas*, as being of quality contrary to the *Canaries*, which are termed the fortunate Islands: for when he passing through the South sea, & meaning to come to the *Molucces* (where he was slaine) did land in these Islands; thinking there to haue furnished himselfe with victuals, and fresh water, he found the whole places to be barren, and not inhabited.

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## Of those Countries that lie about the two Poles.

 Having laid downe in some measure the description of the old knowne World, *Asia*, *Africke*, and *Europe*, with the Islands adioyning vnto them: and also of *America*, which by some hath the title of the *New-found World*: it shall not be amisse briefly to say something of a fift and sixt part of the Earth: the one lying neare the South Pole, and the other neare the North: which are places that in former times were not knowne, nor thought of.

When *Magellanus* was come downe to the Southerne end of *Peru*, he found on the further side of the Straights a maine and huge Land lying towards the South-Pole, which some haue of his name called since, *Regio Magellanica*, and that so much the rather, because he touched  
vpon

## Of the Countries neere the two Poles.

vpon it againe before he came to the *Moluccoes*.

Since his time, the *Portugals* trading towards *Calecut* and the *East-Indies*, there haue some of them beene driuen by tempest so far, as to that which many now call the South Continent : and so diuers of sundry nations, haue there by occasion touched vpon it.

It is found therefore by experience, for to go along all the degrees of Longitude, and as in some places, it is certainly discovered to come vp so high towards the North, as to the *Tropicke of Capricorne*; so it is coniectured, that towards the South it goeth as far as to the Pole: The ground whereof is, that neuer any man did perceiue that Sea did passe through any part thereof: nay, there is not any great Riuer which hath yet beene described to come out of it into the Ocean: whereupon it is concluded that since somewhat must fill vp the Globe of the earth from the first appearing of this land vnto the very Pole: and that cannot be any Sea, vnlesse it should be such a one as hath no entercourse with the Ocean (which to imagine is vncertaine) therefore it is supposed that it commeth whole out in the land to the *Antarticke Pole*: which if it should be granted, it must needs be acknowledged withall that this space of Earth is so huge, as that it equalleth in greatnesse not onely *Asia*, *Europe* and *Africke*, but almost *America*, being ioyned vnto them.

Things memorable in this Country, are yet reported to be very few: onely in the East part ouer against the *Moluccoes*, some haue written that there be very waste Countries and Wildernesles; but we finde not so much as mention whether any doe inhabite there or no.

And ouer against the promontory of *Africke*; which is called *Caput bonae spei*, there is a Country which the *Portugals* called *Psittacorum regio*, because of the abundant store of Parrets, which they found there.

Neere to the *Magellane* straights, in this South patt of  
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the world, is that land the *Spaniards* call *Terra del fuego* : those also which haue toucht at it in other places, haue giuen to some parts of it these names, *Beach*, *Lucach*, and *Maletur*, but we haue no perfect description of it, nor any knowledge how, or by whom it is inhabited.

About this place, the said *Portugals* did at one time saile along for the space of 2000. miles, and yet found no end of the Land. And in this place, they reported that they saw inhabitants, which were very faire and fat people, & did goe naked : which is the more to be obserued because we scant read in any writer, that there hath bin seene any people at all vpon the South coast.

More towards the East, not farre from the *Moluccoes*, there is one part of this Country, as some suppose, although some doubt whether that be an Island or no, which commeth vp so high towards the North, as the very *Æquinoctiall* line, and this is commonly called *Noua Guinea*, because it lyeth in the same Climate, and is of no other temperature then *Guinea* in *Africke* is.

I haue heard a great Mathematician in *England*, finde fault both with *Ortelius* and *Mercator*, and all our late makers of Mappes, because in describing this Continent, they make no mention of any Cities, Kingdoms, or Common-wealths, which are seated and placed there: whereof hee seemed in confidence of words to auouch, that there be a great many, and that it is as good a Country as almost any in the world : But the arguments why he gathered it to be so, he did not deliuer ; and yet notwithstanding it may be most probably conieclured, that the Creator of the world would not haue framed so huge a masse of earth, but that hee would in his wisdom appoint some reasonable creatures to haue their habitation there.

Concerning those places which may be supposed to lie neare vnto the Northerne Pole, there hath in times  
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past something beene written, which for the particularity thereof might carry some shew of truth, if it be not thoroughly looked into. It is therefore by an old tradition deliuered, and by some written also, that there was a Frier of *Oxenford*, who tooke on him for to trauaile into those parts, which are vnder the very Pole; which he did partly by Negromancy (wherein he was much skilled) and partly againe by taking aduantage of the frozen times, by meanes whereof he might trauaile vpon the Ice euen so as himselfe pleased: It is said therefore of him, that he was directly vnder the Pole, and that there he found a very huge and blacke Rocke, which is commonly called *Nigra Rupes*, and that the said Rocke being diuers miles in circuit, is compassed round about with the Sea, which Sea being the breadth of some miles ouer, doth run out into the more large Ocean by foure seuerall currents, which is as much to say, as that a good pretty way distant from the *Nigra Rupes*, there are foure seuerall Lands of reasonable quantitie: and these being situated round about the Rocke, although with some good distance, are seuered each from other by the Sea running betweene them, and making them all foure to be Ilands almost of equall bignes. But there is no certainty of this report, and therefore our best Mathematicians in this latter age haue omitted it.

Our traualers of latter yeares haue aduentured so farre, to their great danger, in those cold and frozen Countries, that they haue descried *Groin Land*; which lieth as farre or beyond the circle *Articke*. but whether it goe so far out as vnto the Pole, they cannot say; which is also to be affirmed of the Northerne parts of *America*, called by some *Estote-land*: for the opening whereof our *English men* haue taken great paines, as may easily appeare by the new Globes and Maps, in which all the Capes, Sounds, and Furlongs, are called by *English* names.



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Their purpose was in attempting this Voyage, to haue found out a passaget to *China* and *Cathai*, by the North parts of *America*: but by the snowes which fell in August and September, as also by the incredible Ice there, after many hazards of their liues, they were forced to returne, not knowing whether there be any current of the Sea, that might lead to the *East-Indies*, or how far the Land doth reach Northward.

In like sort some of our *English* Merchants to their great charges, set forth Fleets to descrie the Seas towards the East: yet going by the North, and there haue found many vnknowne Countries, as *Noua Zembla*, *Sir Hugh Willoughbies* Land, and other more: but of certaintie what is very neare vnto the Poie, they could neuer finde. They haue also so farre preuailed, as to reach one halfe of the way towards *Cathai* by the North, going Eastward: in somuch that by the Riuer *Ob*, and by the Bay of *Saint Nicholas*, they bring the Merchandise downward into *Russia*: But whether the Sea doe goe throughout euen to the farthest Easterne parts, or whether some great Promontorie doe stretch out of the maine Continent vnto the very Pole, they cannot yet attaine to know. These things therefore must be left vncertaine, to further discoueries in future ages.

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